SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

THE POWER OF NEGATIVE THINKING VOLUME 3

KOJI KUMETA

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SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

The Power of Negative Thinking 3

Koji Kumeta

Translated and adapted by Joshua Weeks
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The Power of Negative Thinking 3

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Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha Comics not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics books.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/

Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute,* it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Koji Kumeta

SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI 3

The Power of Negative Thinking

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Cast of Characters

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

KAGER USUI
CHAIRMAN

TEACHER-IN-CHARGE
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI
SUPER-NEGATIVE MAN

TARO MARIA SEKIUTSU
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT; REFUGEE GIRL

MATOI TSUNETSUKI
SUPER-LOVE-OBSESSED STALKER GIRL

KAERE KIMURA
(ALSO KAEDE)
BILINGUAL GIRL

KAFUKA FUURA
SUPER-POSITIVE GIRL

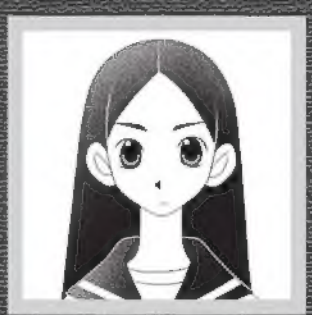
NAMI HITOU
ORDINARY GIRL

ABIRU KOBUSHI
TAIL FETISH GIRL; THOUGHT TO BE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

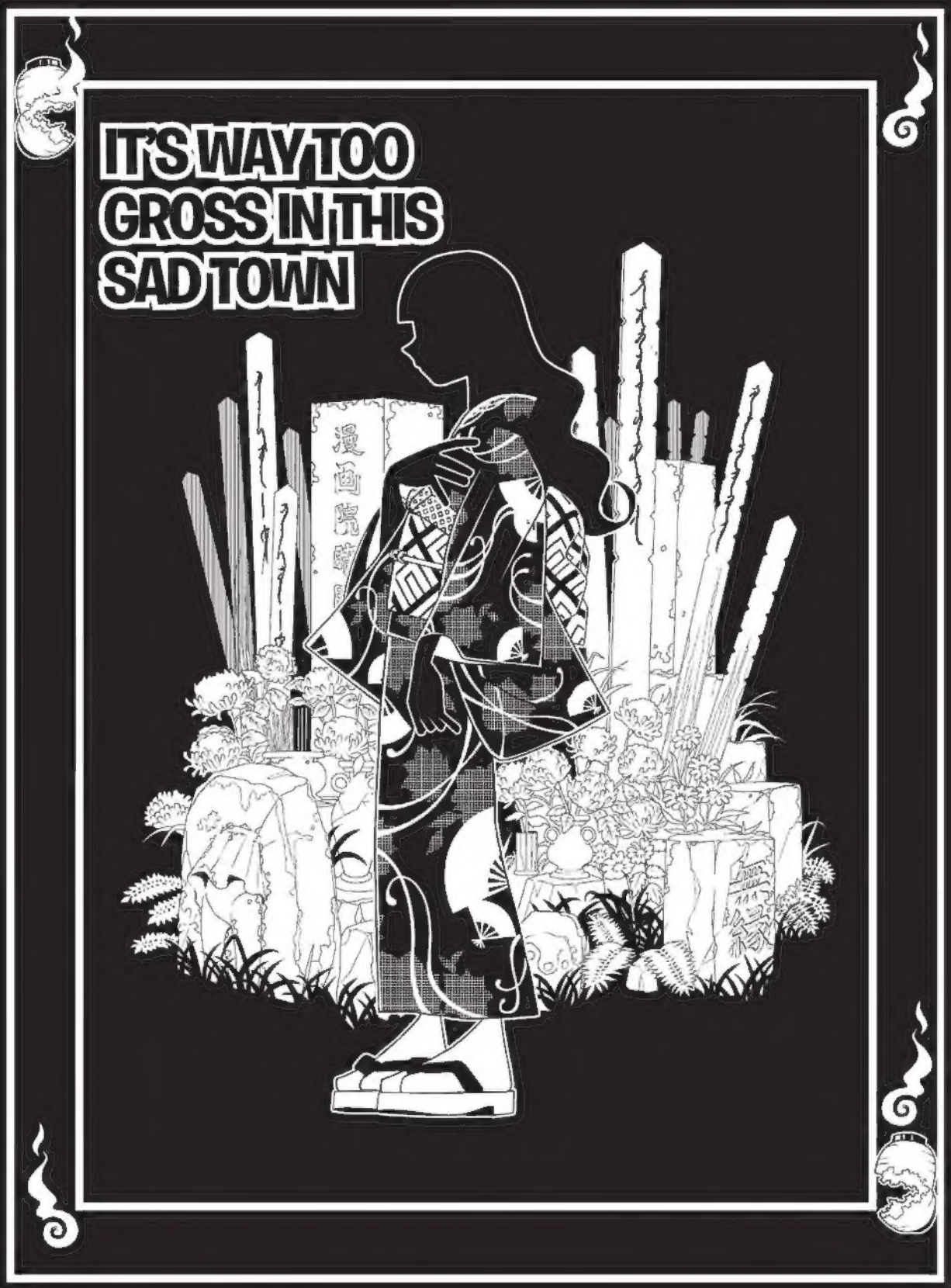
MERU OTONASHI
POISON EMAIL GIRL

HARUMI FUJIYOSHI
EAR FETISH GIRL; ADDICTED TO COUPLING

KIRI KOMORI
HIKIKOMORI GIRL

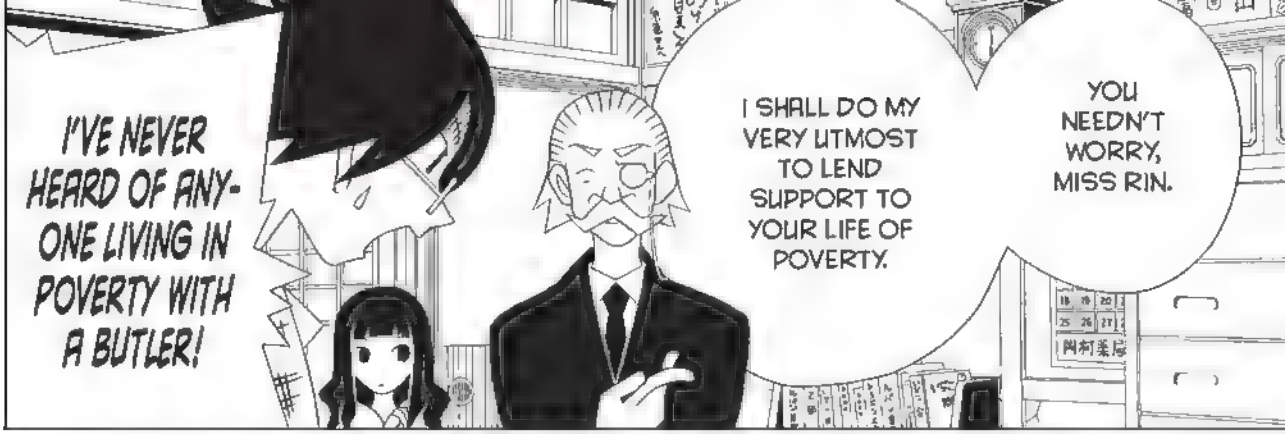


CHIRI KITSU
METHODICAL AND PRECISE GIRL



CHAPTER 21

I'M HOME!
WELCOME HOME, BROTHER.
WHAT?! RIN?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
IT'S NOT FAIR THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS TO LIVE A LIFE OF POVERTY.
I'D LIKE TO BE POOR, TOO, YOU KNOW.


I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY-ONE LIVING IN POVERTY WITH A BUTLER!
I SHALL DO MY VERY UTMOST TO LEND SUPPORT TO YOUR LIFE OF POVERTY.
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY, MISS RIN.

DRAWING YOUR BROWS WITH A 2B PENCIL
EATING RICE WITH WATER
CUTTING HAIR WITH A VENTILATOR FAN
WEARING CLOTHING WITH ONLY THE FRONT PART
OH, HOW I DO ADMIRE POVERTY.

SO ARE YOU, SENSEI.
YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF POVERTY, AREN'T YOU?

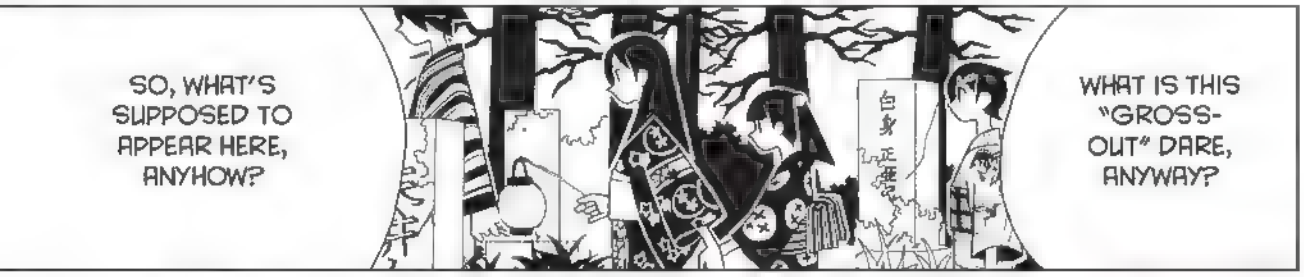
ACTUALLY, I'VE COME TO PUT ON AN EVENT TO *TEST PEOPLE'S COURAGE.*
WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU COME HERE FOR?

WHAT?! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO DO... "THAT"!

おじろ
EERIE
渋井丈雄
南原海
WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT US ALL HERE?
ISN'T THIS THE WRONG SEASON TO PLAY "TEST OF COURAGE"?
WELL, YES... BUT THIS ISN'T A COURAGE TEST...
THIS IS A GROSS-OUT TEST.

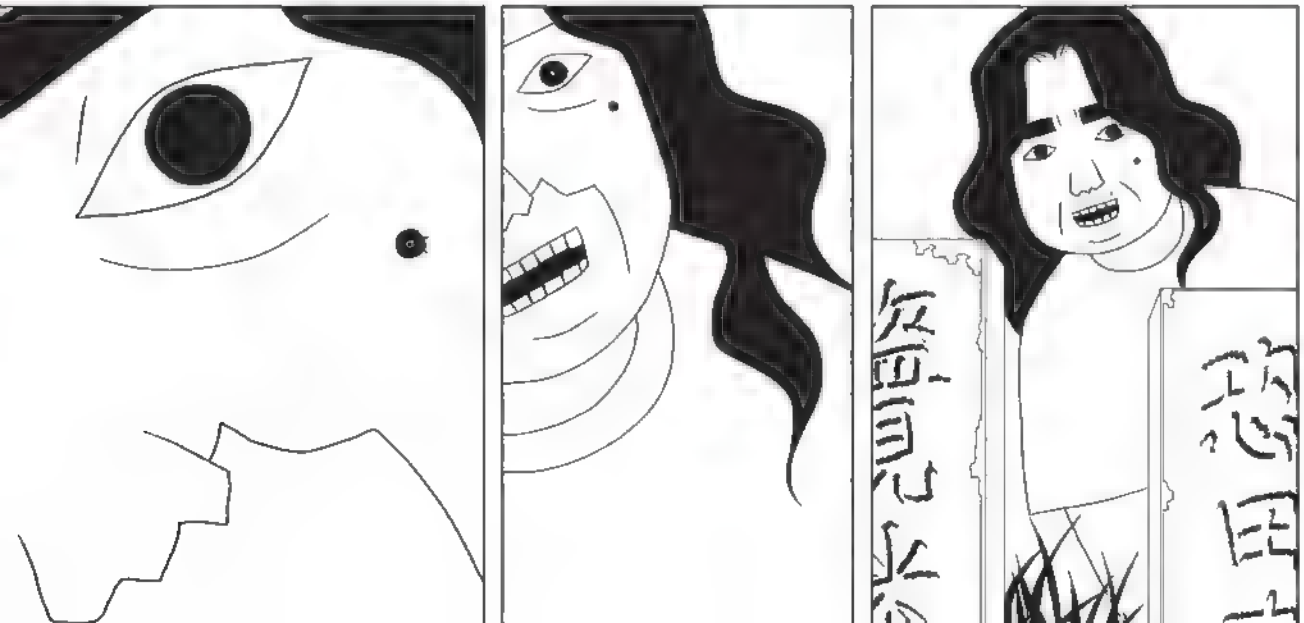
NO. HE'S TRYING TO *GROSS YOU OUT.*
YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO SCARE US?
THE GROSS-OUT TEST IS AN OLD TRADITION IN THE ITOSHIKI FAMILY. THIS YEAR, WE THOUGHT WE'D HOLD IT HERE.
I REMEMBER YOU. YOU'RE OUR SENSEI'S SISTER, AREN'T YOU?
...JUST TO GROSS OUT PEOPLE LIKE YOU!
WE'VE GATHERED GROSS THINGS FROM ALL OVER...
UH-HUH. THEY'RE PRETTY GROSS.
LIKE EMPTY CICADA HUSKS?
"GROSS THINGS"?
WELL... THAT'S TRUE.
URGH!
...IF YOU SAW THESE KINDS OF THINGS DURING THE SUMMER, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BEAR IT.
30
20
10
HOT
THE REASON WE DO IT IN THIS SEASON IS BECAUSE...
A CUP WITH STUFF THAT'S BEEN LEFT OUT FOR A WEEK

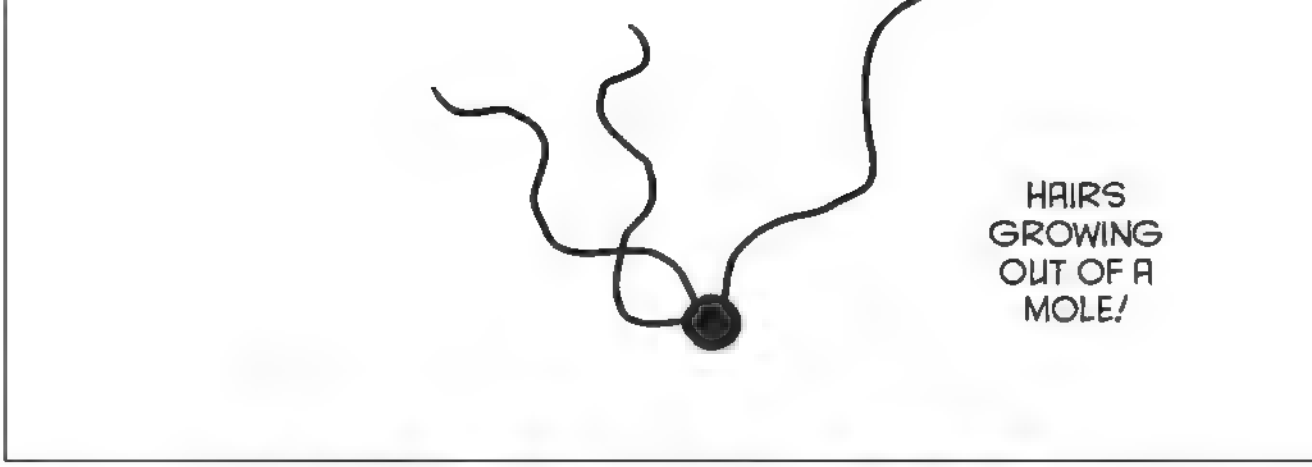
PLEASE PROCEED ALONG THE PATH.
THIS WAY
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. THE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE.


SO, WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO APPEAR HERE, ANYHOW?
WHAT IS THIS "GROSS-OUT" DARE, ANYWAY?

SWEAT-STAINED ARMPITS AND SEE-THROUGH WET T-SHIRT WITH NIPPLES SHOWING.
BOO!

GROSS!

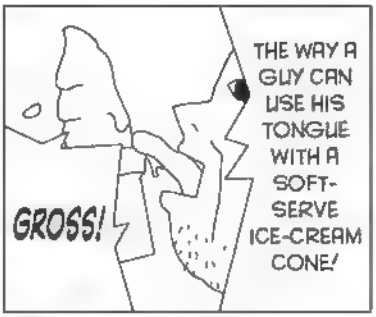


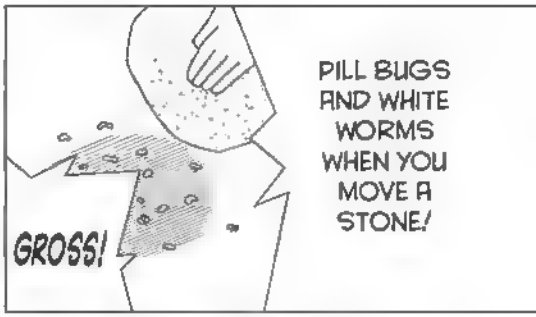

HAIRS GROWING OUT OF A MOLE!

THESE ARE CALLED TREASURE HAIRS; THEY'RE LUCKY, YOU KNOW.
GROSS!

AND THREE OF THEM, TOO!

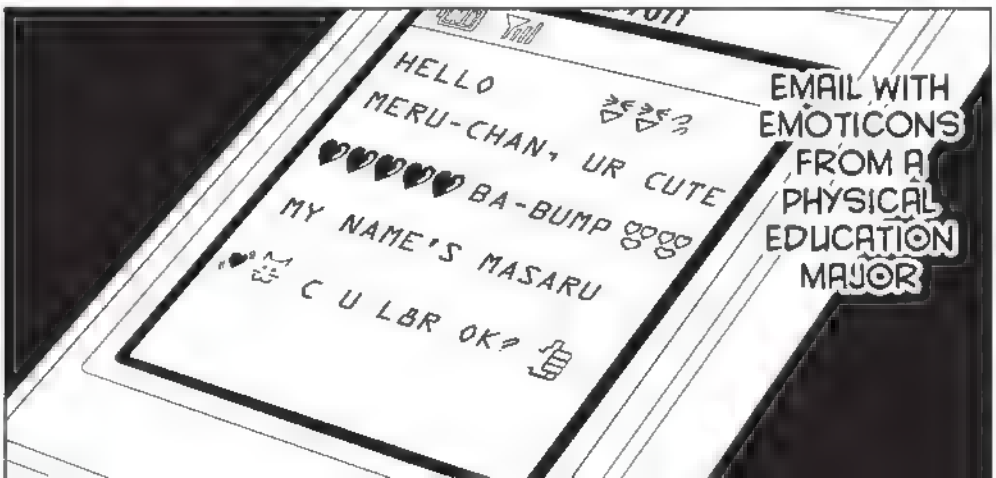
KIRA YOSHIKAGE'S COLLECTION OF NAIL CLIPPINGS!
GROSS!


THE WAY A GUY CAN USE HIS TONGUE WITH A SOFT-SERVE ICE-CREAM CONE!
GROSS!


PILL BUGS AND WHITE WORMS WHEN YOU MOVE A STONE!
GROSS!

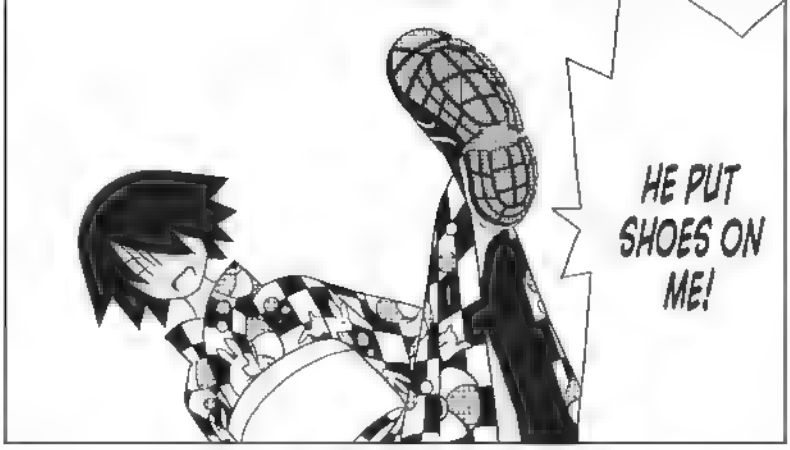
MAIL MAIL...
MERU, I'VE GIVEN YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO THAT PHYSICAL EDUCATION MAJOR.

WE'VE PREPARED SOMETHING GROSS AND REPULSIVE THAT'S UNIQUELY GEARED TO EACH ONE OF YOU.


HELLO
MERU-CHAN, UR CUTE
BA-BUMP gogo
MY NAME'S MASARU
C U LBR OK?
EMAIL WITH EMOTICONS FROM A PHYSICAL EDUCATION MAJOR

PRING-A-LING

SH25II
YR DISGUSTING. A PHYS ED MAJOR SHOULDN'T USE EMOTICONS, MORON.
PRING-A-PING PING
MAIL MAIL
GROSS!
D7011
AWW SO SAD...ROTFC
PRING-A-PING PING
WELL, RAW GARBAGE IS ALWAYS PRETTY DISGUSTING...
THIS IS DISGUST-ING!
GROSS!
IT'S DISGUST-ING!
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'D THROW OUT BURNABLE GARBAGE ON WEDNESDAY!
MON NON-BURNABLE
TUES BURNABLE
WED NON-BURNABLE
THURS RECYCLABLE
FRI BURNABLE
TODAY IS NON-BURNABLES DAY, ISN'T IT?!
GROSS, GROSS!
HEY! HOLD ON A MINUTE!
I'M TAKING IT HOME TO THROW IT OUT ON FRIDAY!

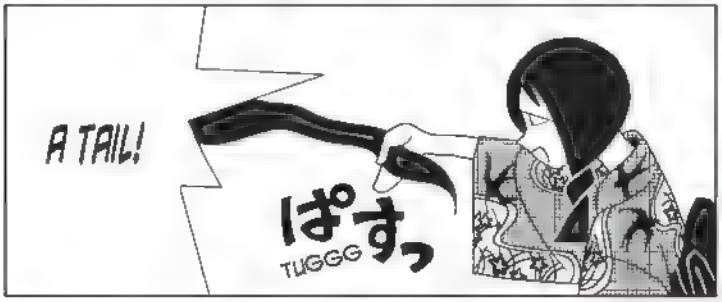

HE PUT SHOES ON ME!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING WITH THAT LITTLE GIRL?

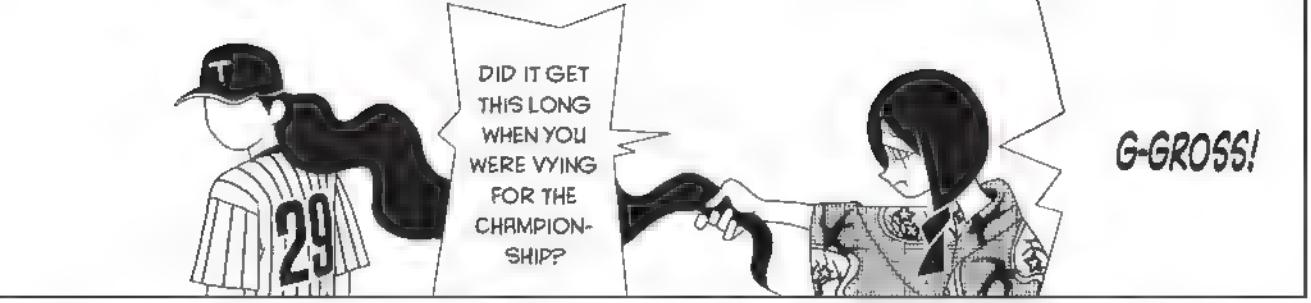
FOR HER, IT MUST REALLY BE PRETTY WEIRD TO WEAR SHOES.
THE EARTH'S SPINNING!
GROSS ME OUT!

COME ON...LET'S MOVE ALONG, LET'S MOVE ALONG...
UH... WHAT?

WEARING SHOES AND PANTIES FEELS GROSS.


A TAIL!
ぱすっ
TUGGG

29


DID IT GET THIS LONG WHEN YOU WERE VYING FOR THE CHAMPION-SHIP?
G-GROSS!

IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?!
GIL X REY
THIS PAIRING COULD NEVER HAPPEN!

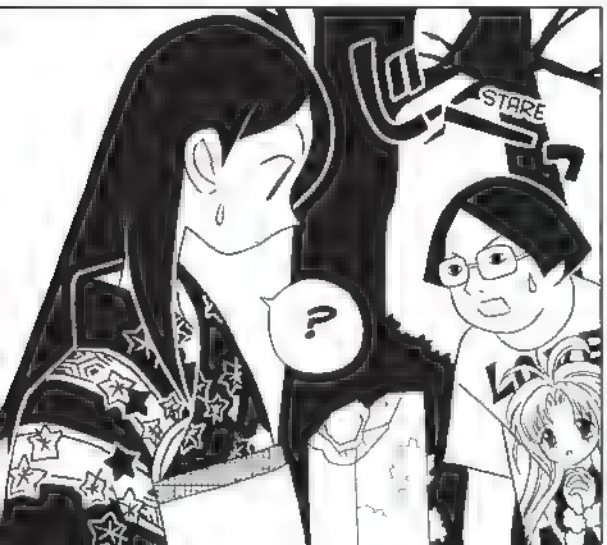
UGH! THIS IS GROSS!

OTOME ROAD
I PUT A LOT OF WORK INTO IT.

THANK YOU.
YOUR RESEARCH WAS MOST IMPRESSIVE, TOKITA.

UMM...
YOU THERE. IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU THINK IS GROSS?

• THE INNER PART OF SAZAE-SAN'S BODY
• UNSLICED BEEF TONGUE
• THE FACE OF A GREEN CATERPILLAR
• SAIBAMEN
• PHOTO STICKERS WITH GUYS TOGETHER
• IMPRISONED PRINCE
• FUYUHIKO-SAN
I'VE ALSO PREPARED AN ASSORT-MENT OF THE FOLLOWING DISGUSTING THINGS.

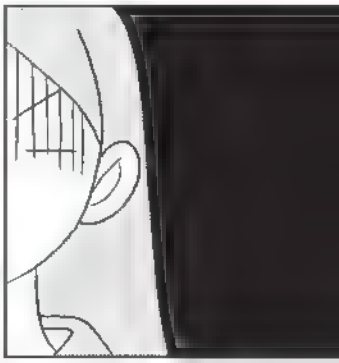

STARE
?

HUH?
STALKERS ARE GROSS.

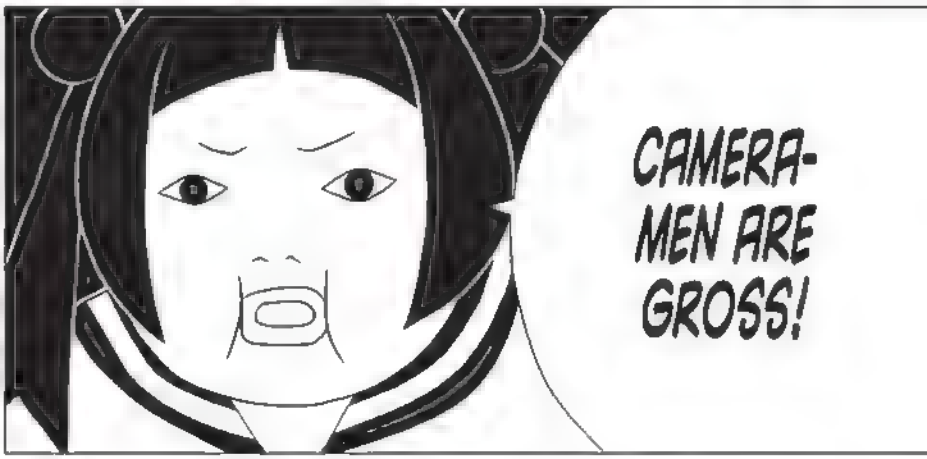
REAL WOMEN ARE GROSS!
EWW! A REAL WOMAN!

GROSS!
GROSS!

GROSS!



HEY YOU! YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE PHOTOS OF WHATEVER YOU LIKE!


CAMERAMEN ARE GROSS!

...PEOPLE START FIGHTING, AND THINGS GET *REALLY* UGLY.
WHENEVER THERE'S A GROSS-OUT DARE...

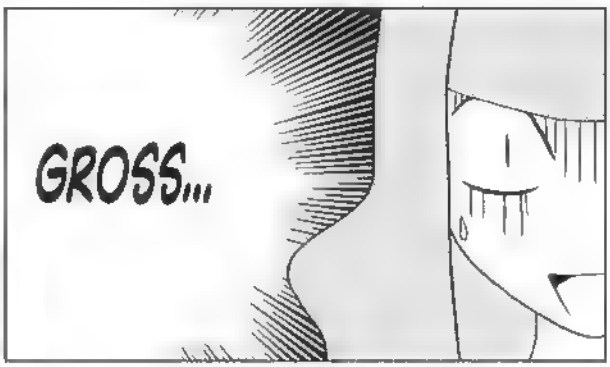
GROSS!
WHO'D WANNA TAKE A PHOTO OF *YOU*, ANYWAY?

OOOOH!
GROSS!
GROSS!

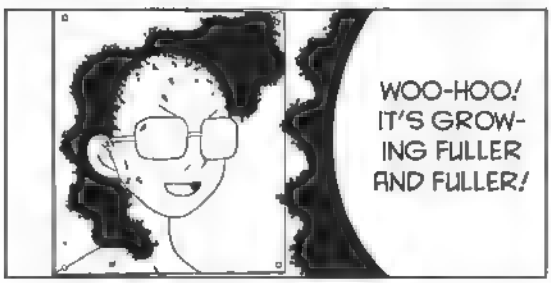
MOST THINGS ARE JUST *KIMOKAWA.*
HOW SILLY. THERE AREN'T THAT MANY GROSS THINGS IN THE WORLD.
NOWADAYS, POOR FAMILIES THINK OF GROSS THINGS AS BEING CUTE. THEY'VE DEVELOPED AN APPRECIATION FOR THEM.
"KIMOKAWA"?
A TEN-METER TAPEWORM. *KIMOKAWA!*
HAIRS IN THE DRAIN TRAP. *KIMOKAWA!*
THOROUGHLY USED PORE PACKS. *KIMOKAWA!*
• PRESIDENT MURAKAMI OF THE MURAKAMI FUND
• *KURAKI PAPA*
• YAMAHIRA'S SEX BOOK
• COMMERCIAL FOR *TV GUIDE*
• 326'S STYLE
THEY'RE ALL *KIMO-KAWA!*
THEY'RE ALL BEING APPLAUDED.
THIS HAIR-GROWTH LOTION WITH HONEY IN IT REALLY WORKS!
SO, POOR PEOPLE THINK DIS-GUSTING THINGS ARE *KIMOKAWA?*

CRAWL
CRAWL

SQUIRM
SQUIRM
だら
だら
...BUT CUTE...?

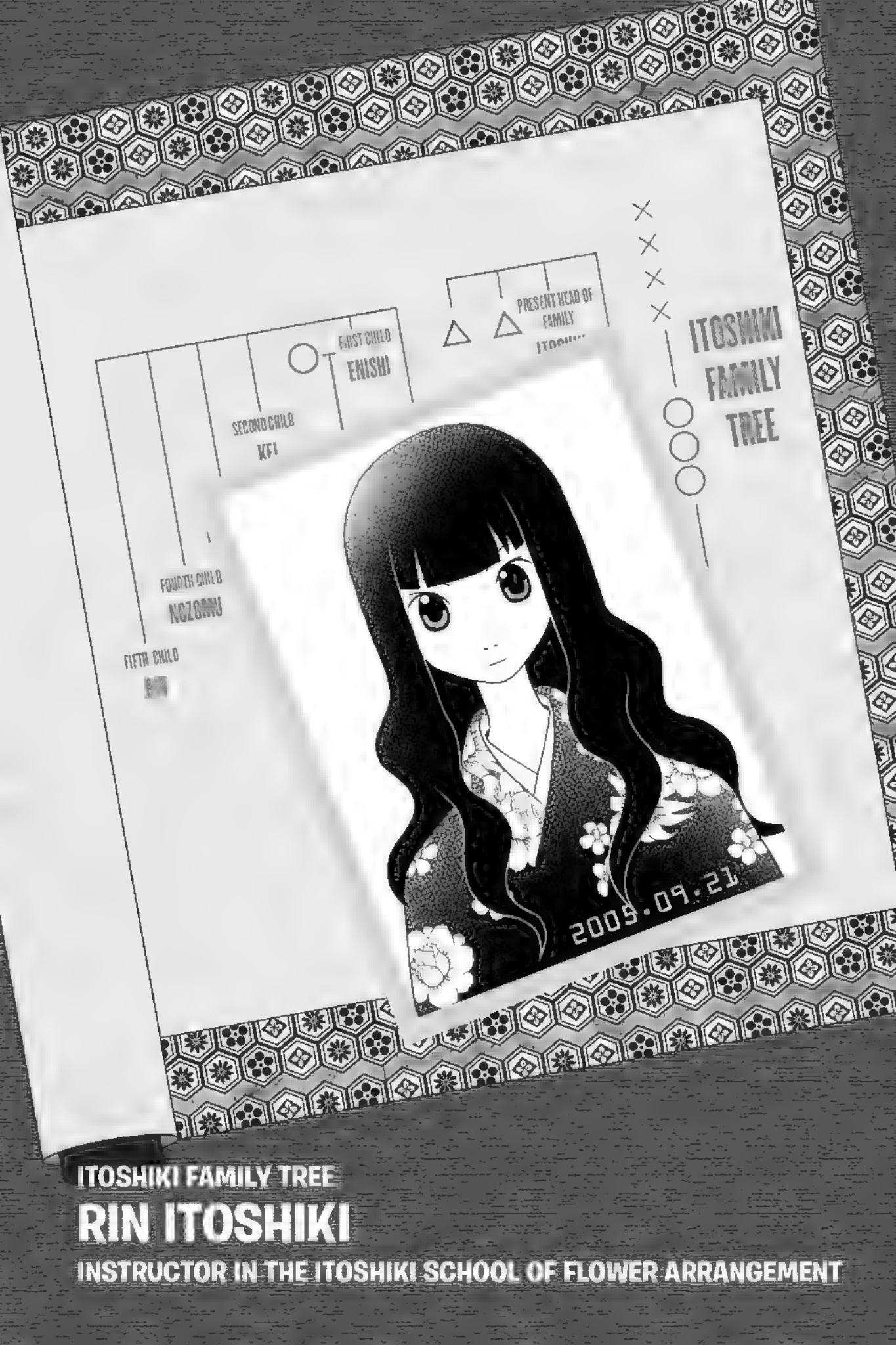

GROSS...

IT'S GROWW-WING!
NOT CUTE AT ALL! JUST GROSS!
だっ DASH
NO! NOT CUTE!


WOO-HOO! IT'S GROW-ING FULLER AND FULLER!

USO!

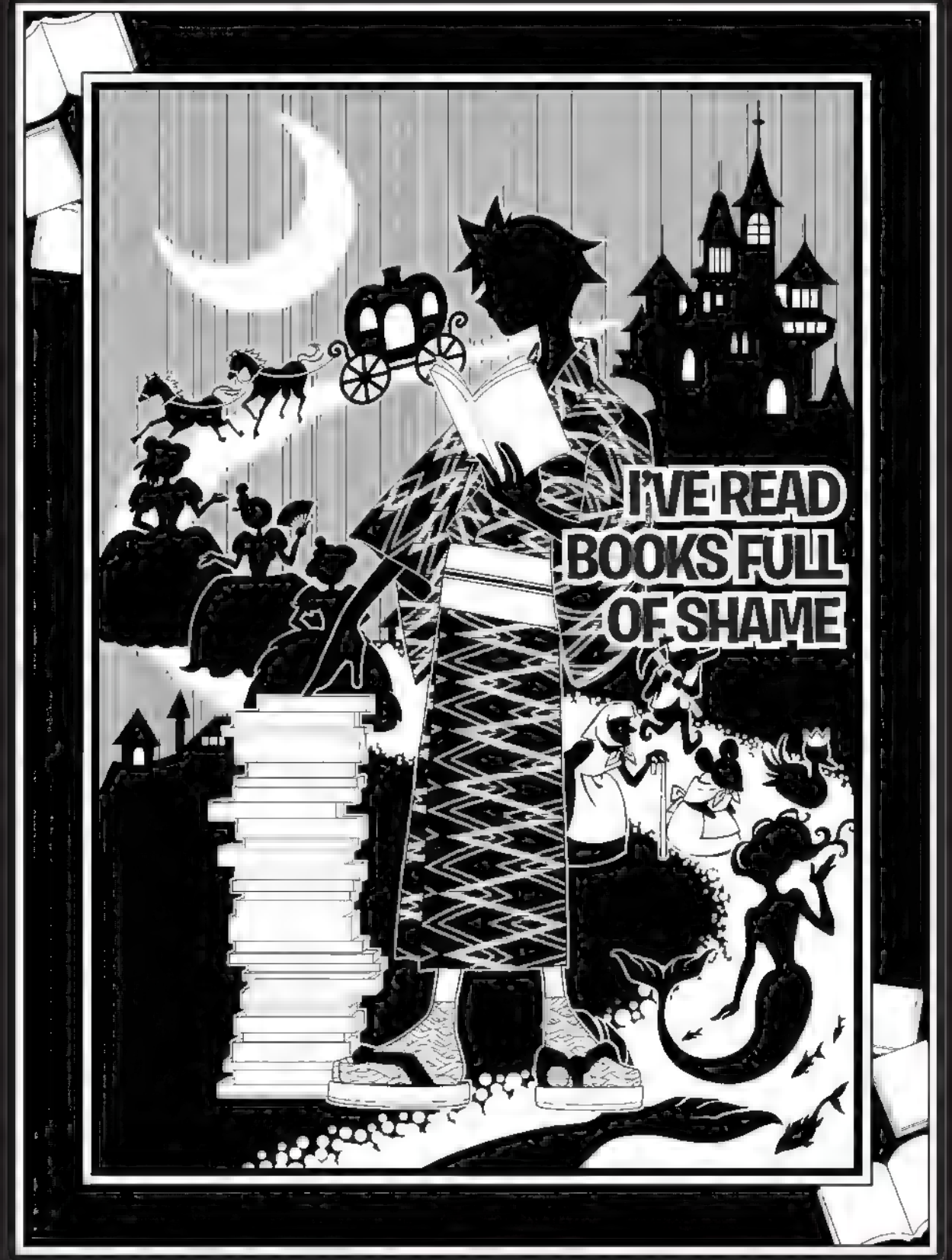
POVERTY IS A HORRIBLE THING.



ITOSHIKI FAMILY TREE

RIN ITOSHIKI

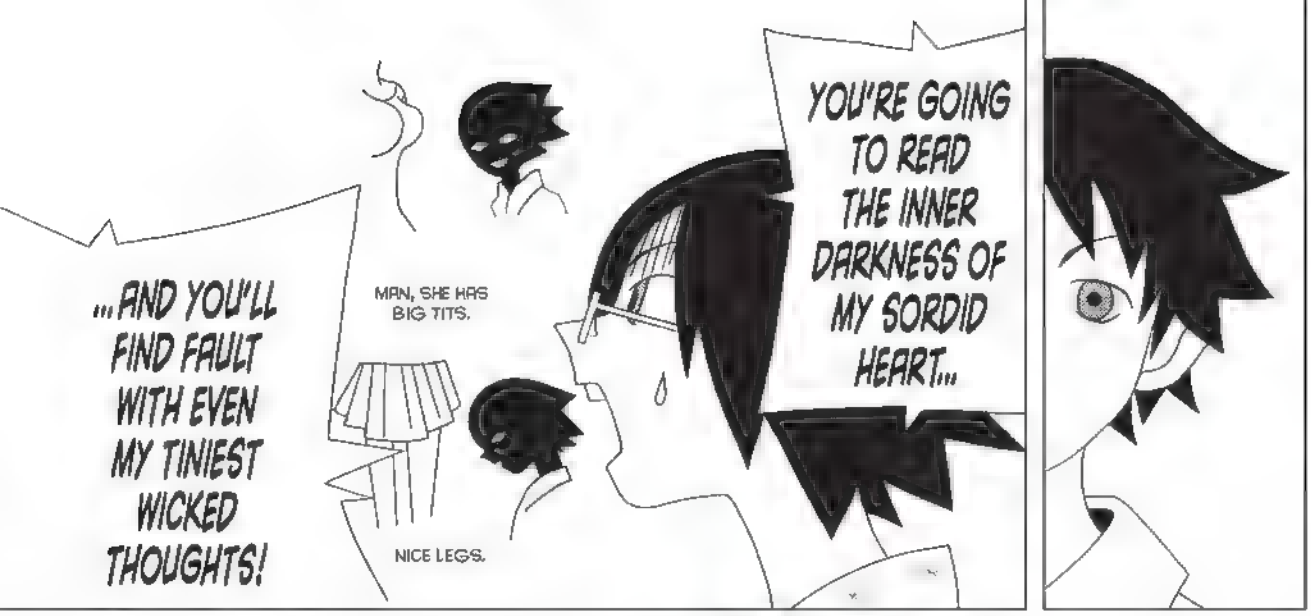
INSTRUCTOR IN THE ITOSHIKI SCHOOL OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT



CHAPTER 22

絵本
写真集
歴史小説
秋の読書週間
どくしょざんまいのひび
YUP.
JUN, YOU SURE ARE A REAL BOOKWORM.
I WANT TO READ EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

YOU WANT TO READ "EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING"?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
HUH?
実用書
YOU SAY YOU WANT TO READ EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING....
DO YOU ONLY READ BOOKS?
BUT...
I BET YOU'RE PLANNING TO READ WHAT'S IN MY HEART, AREN'T YOU?


YOU'RE GOING TO READ THE INNER DARKNESS OF MY SORDID HEART...
MAN, SHE HAS BIG TITS.
NICE LEGS.
...AND YOU'LL FIND FAULT WITH EVEN MY TINIEST WICKED THOUGHTS!

HUH?
I HAVE CLOSED UP MY HEART!
I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN! I WON'T LET YOU READ MY HEART!

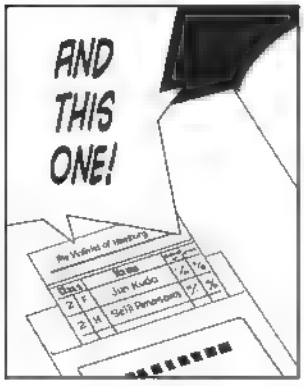
HMM. SO HE DOES THINK IT'S THINNER.
I'M NOT THINKING THAT SHONEN MAGAZINE HAS GOTTEN THINNER THAN IT WAS LAST YEAR!
I'M NOT THINKING ABOUT THAT!

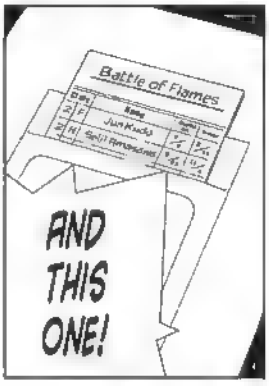
HMM. THIS LOOKS PRETTY INTERESTING.
R-REALLY...?
SENSEI, I THINK YOU SHOULD READ SOME BOOKS, TOO.
.....
OH, DON'T WORRY. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. EVEN IF I'M A PRETTY AMAZING READER, I CAN'T READ OTHERS' HEARTS.

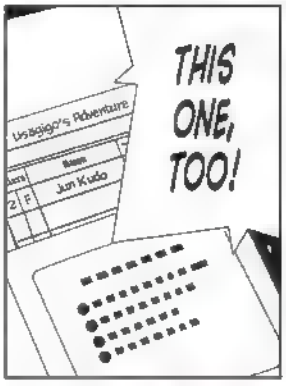
Roo of the Lizard Forest (6)
by Aoi Hiiragi (manga artist)
Class
Name
Jun Kudo
2 F
Checked out
Returned
9/1
9/7

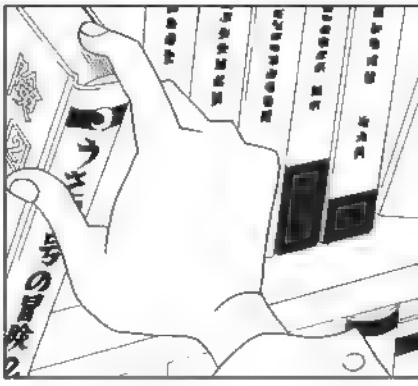
...BUT HE'S ALREADY READ IT...
I WAS PLANNING TO READ THIS BOOK...

HE'S READ IT!


AND THIS ONE!


Battle of Flames
AND THIS ONE!


THIS ONE, TOO!
Usagigo's Adventure
Name
Jun Kudo
2 F



...EACH AND EVERY BOOK I WANTED TO READ!
Fairy Tales
HE'S ALREADY READ...

THAT ONE, TOO...
JUST AS I THOUGHT...

IN FACT, I BET HE CAN READ ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING IN CREATION!
...IT WOULDN'T BE SUCH A SURPRISE IF HE COULD READ HEARTS.
IF HE'S READ SO MANY BOOKS OF SUCH VARIETY...
BASELESS ASSERTION
THE HORSES AT THE RACETRACK!
THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTIONS!
THE GREENS AT THE MASTERS TOURNA-MENT!
I BET HE CAN READ PITCHES AS WELL AS COACH NOMURA!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HUH?
TO BE ABLE TO READ THE GREENS THAT EVEN SAKURA YOKOMINE'S DAD COULDN'T READ... THAT'S INCREDIBLE!
BUT JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN DO THAT, DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN READ MY HEART!
FOR YOU TO BE ABLE TO PREDICT THE ELECTION RESULTS THAT EVEN KATSUYA OKADA COULDN'T PREDICT... THAT'S EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE!
I JUST HAVE TO NOT THINK OF ANYTHING. KEEP A PURE HEART... A PURE HEART...
THAT'S RIGHT. IF I DON'T SAY ALL THESE UNNECESSARY THINGS, HE WILL BE ABLE TO READ WHAT I'M THINKING.

I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE, IF SHE DOESN'T SAY TWO MONTHS, IT'LL CONFLICT WITH ARTHUR KURODA...
SHE'D ONLY HAVE MISSED HER PERIOD ONCE.
ISN'T IT A TAD EARLY FOR YUMI ADACHI TO KNOW SHE'S TWO MONTHS PREGNANT?
DID YOU JUST READ WHAT I WAS THINKING?
OH NO! I DID IT!
SENSEI..
DASH, だっ
YOU DID, DIDN'T YOU?! I CAN'T GO ON LIVING ANYMORE!
AND... THAT IS?
IF YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO READ YOUR HEART, I KNOW JUST THE WAY TO SOLVE THAT.
IF YOU DON'T *HAVE* A HEART, THERE'S NOTHING TO READ.

YOU JUST HAVE TO BECOME HEARTLESS.

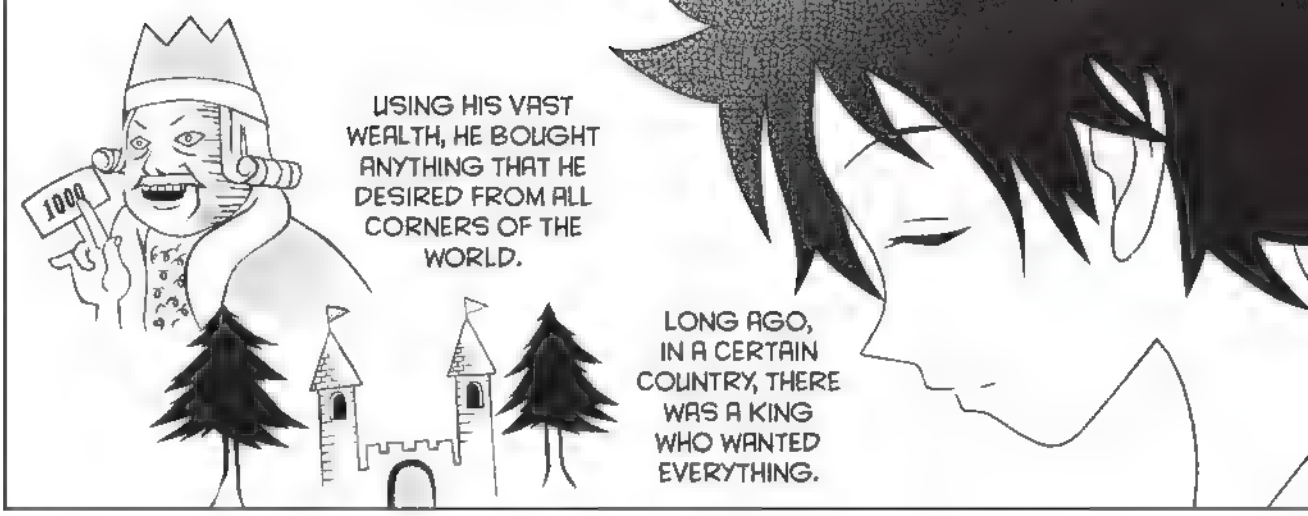
DECEIVE OLD PEOPLE. PUT LOTS OF VENTILATION FANS UNDER THE FLOOR. BREAK DOWN FLOOD GATES.
STEP ON CHILDREN'S SANDCASTLES.
THROW GARBAGE AROUND TOWN.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "HEARTLESS"?

FOR A MAN WITHOUT A HEART?
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY EXAMPLES THAT ARE LESS APPALLING?

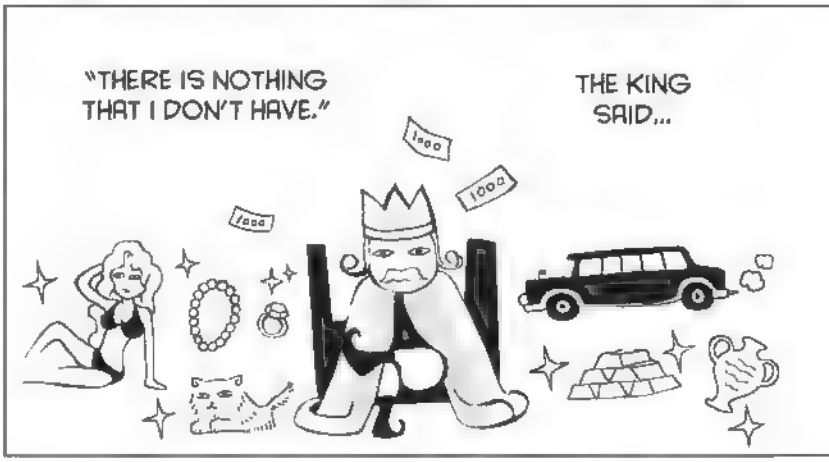
DON'T GO AROUND USING ME AS AN EXAMPLE WITHOUT PERMISSION!
STEAL MONEY FROM DONATION BOXES NEAR TRAIN STATIONS MEANT FOR FIRE DISASTERS.

"THE KING WITHOUT A HEART."
HUH?

WITHOUT A HEART...


1000
USING HIS VAST WEALTH, HE BOUGHT ANYTHING THAT HE DESIRED FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD.
LONG AGO, IN A CERTAIN COUNTRY, THERE WAS A KING WHO WANTED EVERYTHING.

THEN ONE DAY, A TRAVELING MERCHANT APPEARED BEFORE THE KING AND SAID, "ALLOW ME TO SAY THIS, OH KING, BUT THERE IS ONE THING THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE... AND THAT IS A HEART."

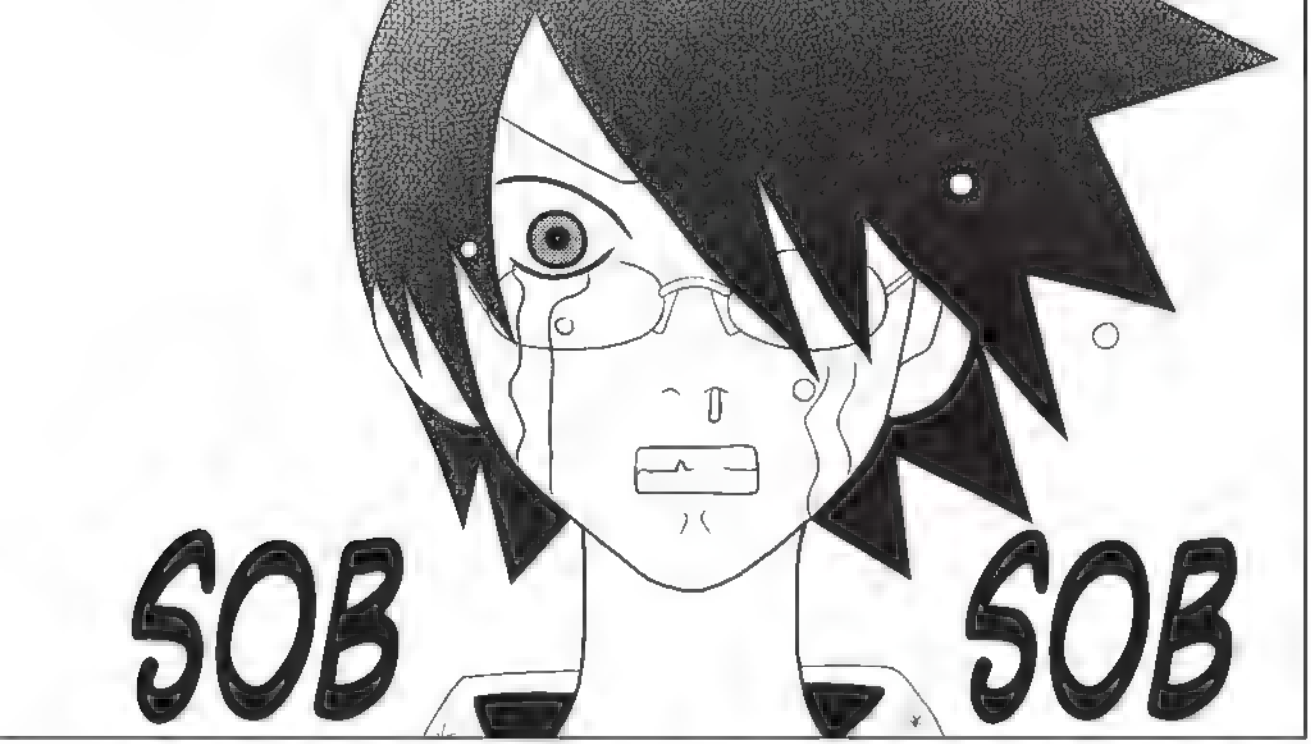

"THERE IS NOTHING THAT I DON'T HAVE."
THE KING SAID...
1000
1000
1000

HE ONLY HAD IT FOR A MERE SECOND BEFORE HE DIED...BUT THE KING WAS SO HAPPY THAT HE HAD FINALLY RECEIVED A HEART.

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS LIFE, THE KING FINALLY GOT A HEART.
"THANK YOU, KING. THANK YOU SO MUCH."

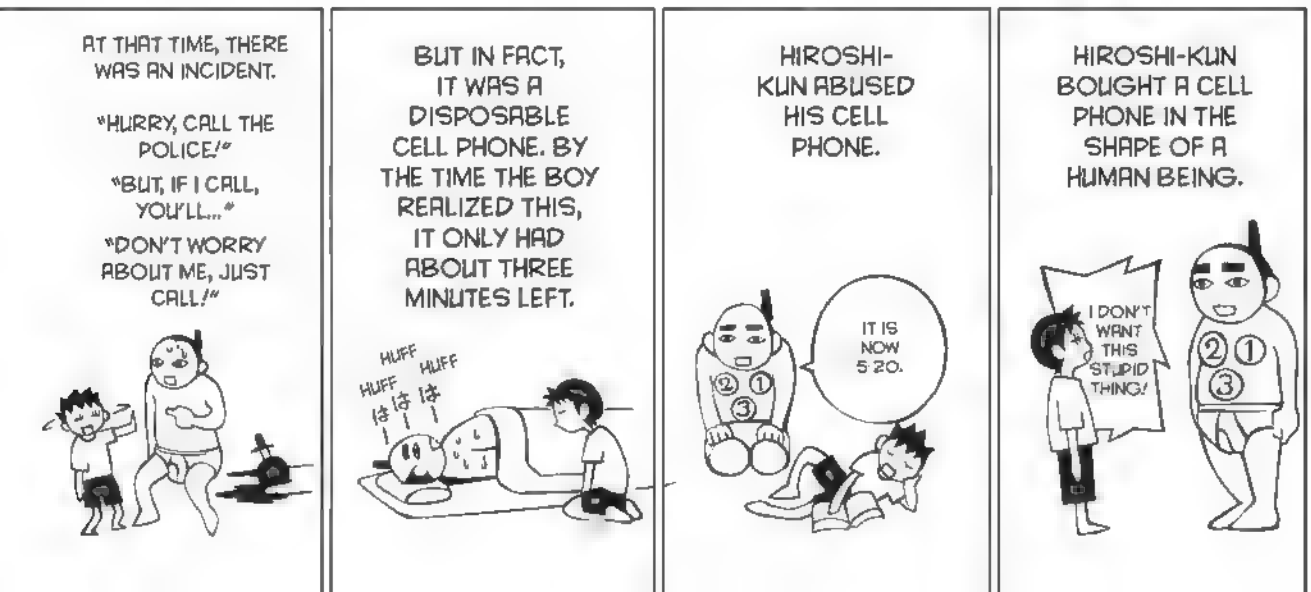
—(SEVERAL SCENES DELETED)—
TO SAVE A CHILD FROM AN EVIL GANG OF KIDNAPPERS, THE KING PUSHED THE CHILD OUT OF THE WAY AND TOOK THE BLOW HIMSELF.

THE END.


SOB
SOB

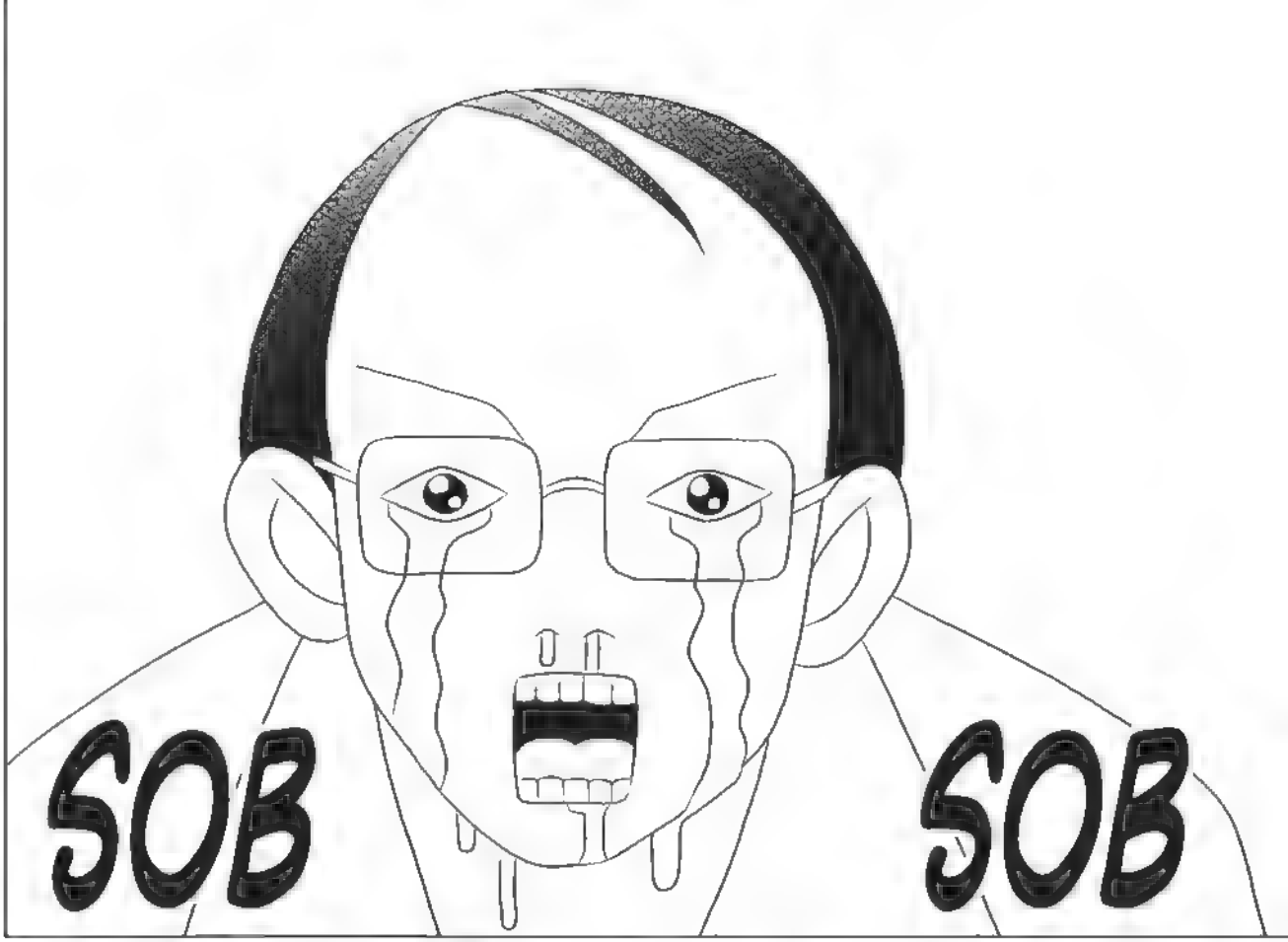
HE TURNS EVERYTHING INTO A CHILDREN'S STORY.
OH. JUN'S A NATURAL-BORN STORYTELLER.
WH...WHAT WAS THAT? WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?

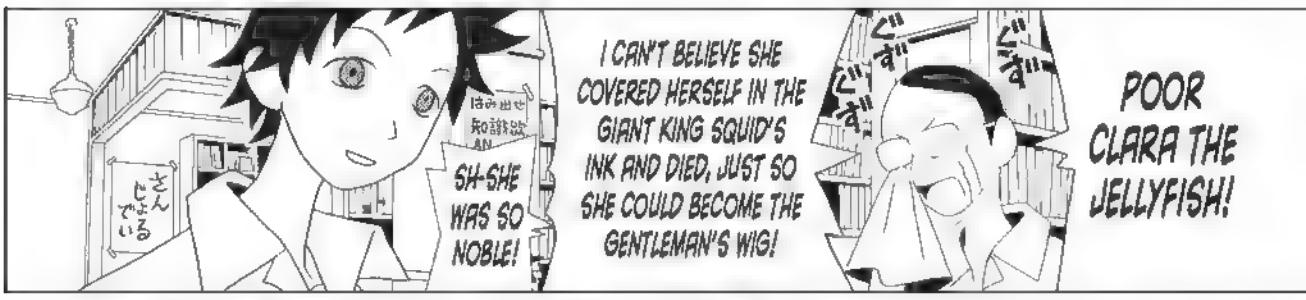
"THE DISPOSABLE CELL PHONE."
CELL PHONE...


AT THAT TIME, THERE WAS AN INCIDENT.
"HURRY, CALL THE POLICE!"
"BUT, IF I CALL, YOU'LL..."
"DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, JUST CALL!"
BUT IN FACT, IT WAS A DISPOSABLE CELL PHONE. BY THE TIME THE BOY REALIZED THIS, IT ONLY HAD ABOUT THREE MINUTES LEFT.
HUFF HUFF HUFF HUFF
HIROSHI-KUN ABUSED HIS CELL PHONE.
IT IS NOW 5:20.
HIROSHI-KUN BOUGHT A CELL PHONE IN THE SHAPE OF A HUMAN BEING.
I DON'T WANT THIS STUPID THING!

SOB
SOB
"THE BADGER'S RENT-A-TAIL SHOP."
?
T_T T_T T_T
T_T T_T T_T
AGGH MY EYES
ARE STINGING
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
"THE MOUSE'S LETTER OF ACCUSATION."
SOB
SOB
YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PRECISE ANYMORE.
"THE PRECISE AMOEBA."

ONE DAY, AS A GENTLEMAN WAS WALKING ALONG THE SEASHORE...
自己啓発
"THE INVISIBLE WIG."
THE GENTLEMAN PERSUADED THE CHILDREN TO STOP, THEREBY SAVING THE JELLYFISH.
HE SAW SOME CHILDREN TORMENTING A JELLYFISH.
"IN THAT CASE, I SHALL BECOME YOUR WIG."
"HMM..." SAID THE GENTLEMAN. "LET ME SEE... THE THING THAT I WOULD LIKE NOW IS A WIG."
...IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?" ASKED THE JELLYFISH.
"THANK YOU SO MUCH. I WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOU MY GRATITUDE...
HOWEVER, THE JELLYFISH WAS NOT FULLY CONVINCED.
"BUT IT MEANS A LOT TO ME THAT YOU CARED." SAYING THIS, THE GENTLEMAN WENT ON HIS WAY.
"I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT BUT, YOU SEE, SINCE YOU ARE TRANSPARENT, PEOPLE WILL SEE MY BALD SPOT."

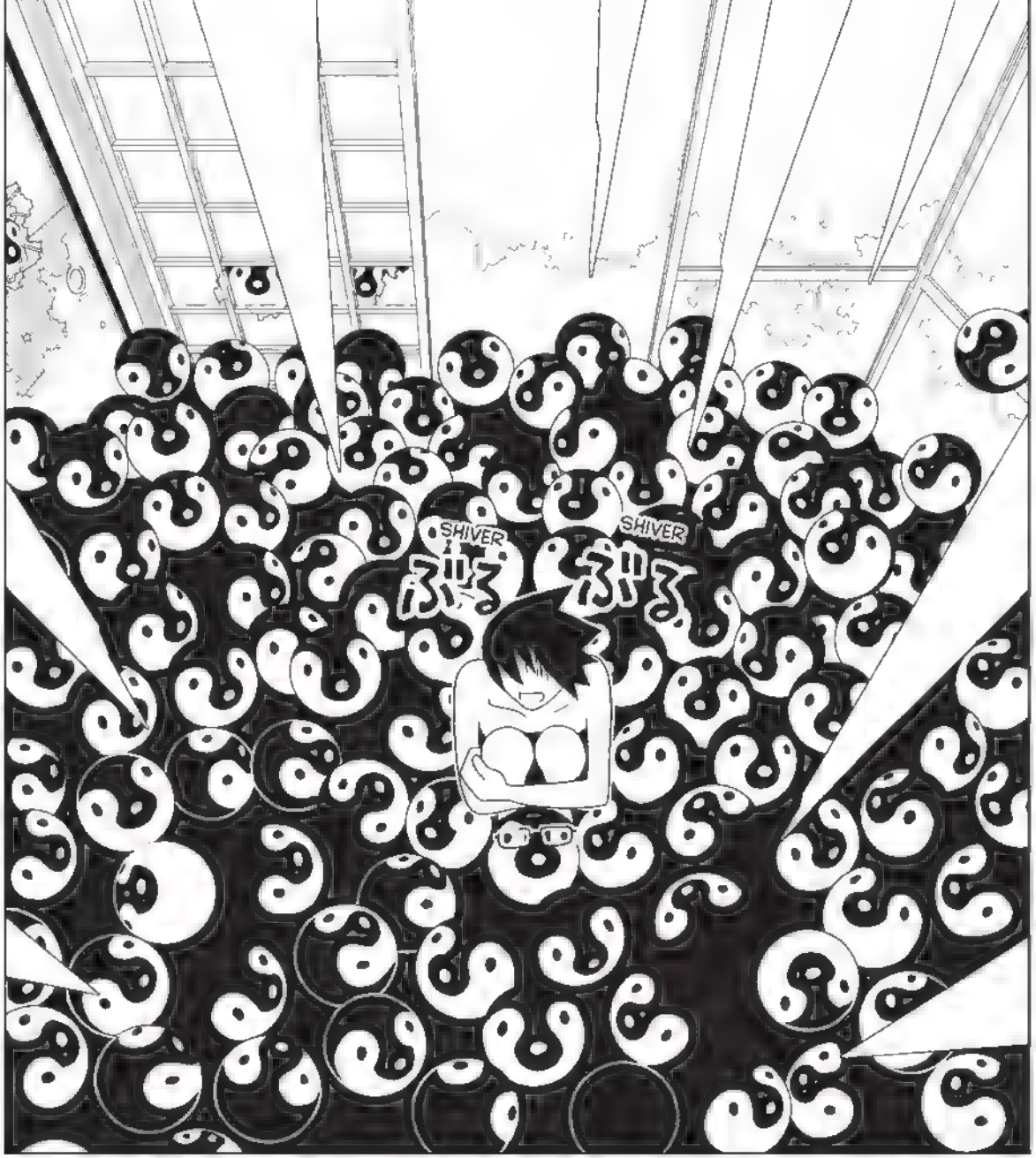

SOB
SOB


SH-SHE WAS SO NOBLE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE COVERED HERSELF IN THE GIANT KING SQUID'S INK AND DIED, JUST SO SHE COULD BECOME THE GENTLEMAN'S WIG!
ぐず
ぐず
POOR CLARA THE JELLYFISH!

……
BLUBBER BLUBBER
ぐず
ぐず
SOB SOB
すん
すん
WHIMPER WHIMPER
めそ
めそ
しくしく
WEEP WEEP

DON'T DENY IT! YOU CAN READ ALL SORTS OF THINGS!
I KNEW IT, JUN! YOU CAN READ WHAT'S INSIDE PEOPLE'S HEARTS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAN TUG AT THE HEARTS OF ALL THESE PEOPLE!

GLANCE
ぴっ
ふぶきのあんた
DASH
だっ
BUT I WON'T LET YOU READ MY HEART!
I'LL PURIFY MYSELF! I'LL SIT UNDER A WATERFALL UNTIL I CLEANSE MYSELF OF ALL WORLDLY ATTACHMENTS AND ACHIEVE EMPTINESS!
YOU JUST READ WHAT HAPPENS TO ME, DIDN'T YOU?
HUH?
I WON'T ALLOW IT!
YOU WON'T PREDICT THE ENDING OF MY STORY! I SWEAR IT!
I'LL HAVE AN ENDING THAT YOU'LL NEVER, EVER PREDICT!


SHIVER
ぶるる
SHIVER
ぶるる

...WITH THESE PENGUINS!
I'M TOTALLY FED UP...

HE'S NOT PUNCHED YET!
WHAT'S THE PUNCH LINE?
YOU DIDN'T EXPECT THIS, DID YOU?!
SO *THIS* IS THE OUT-COME THAT HE COULDN'T PREDICT?

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

ATTENDANCE NO. 6

JUN KUTOU

GENIUS STORYTELLER

一のへ
入口
A CULTURED MAN WAS WAITING FOR THE RAIN TO STOP UNDER THE RASHOMON GATE

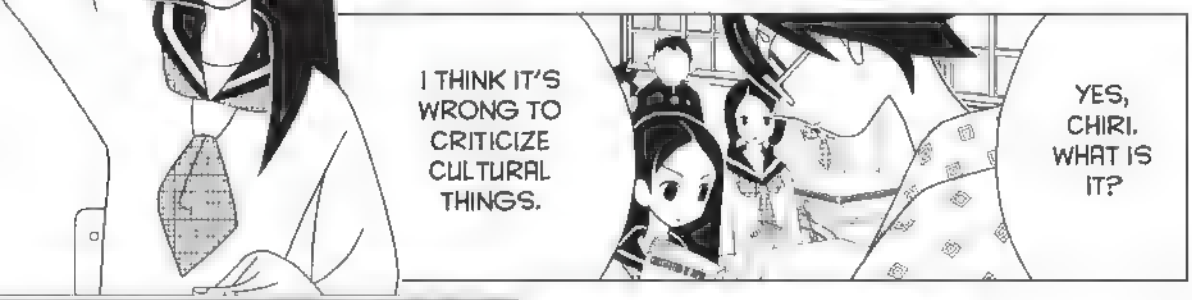
CHAPTER 23

文化祭
文化祭
たこやき
あいこ
万国びっくりショウ
カエルのマジシャン
光画部
フレッシュジュース
落研
おやい
ネイサ
HOT
丹コ焼
6ヶ500円
タルト付
たこやき
なんぼ
マンボ
アリ
メイド
喫茶
やきそば
DULL
ずー
ん
WELL, YOU SEE....
入口
お気軽にお入り下さい。
ALL THE OTHER CLASSES HAVE PUT ON BIG DISPLAYS FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL... WHY IS YOUR CLASS SO SKIMPY?

WELL, I GUESS IT'S TIME FOR THE SCHOOL'S CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
Cultural Festival
OUR CLASS HAS TO DO SOMETHING FOR THE FESTIVAL, TOO, YOU KNOW.
YOU "GUESS"?
CULTURE, EH...
CULTURAL FESTIVAL...
DON'T GO AROUND PUTTING ON AIRS AND PRETENDING THAT YOU'RE "CULTURED"!

AND IF YOU TRY TO ACT "CULTURED" WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING IT, YOU'LL NEVER BE AS GOOD AS ADULTS.
AT YOUR AGE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BE TRULY CULTURED.

輪の広い人間
BUT JUST BECAUSE WE'RE DOING THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL, IT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE PUTTING ON AIRS.


I THINK IT'S WRONG TO CRITICIZE CULTURAL THINGS.
YES, CHIRI. WHAT IS IT?

THE REASON IT'S WRONG IS BECAUSE IT'S GUARANTEED IN OUR CONSTITUTION.
IT STATES THAT THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAINTAIN THE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF WHOLESOME *AND CULTURED* LIVING.

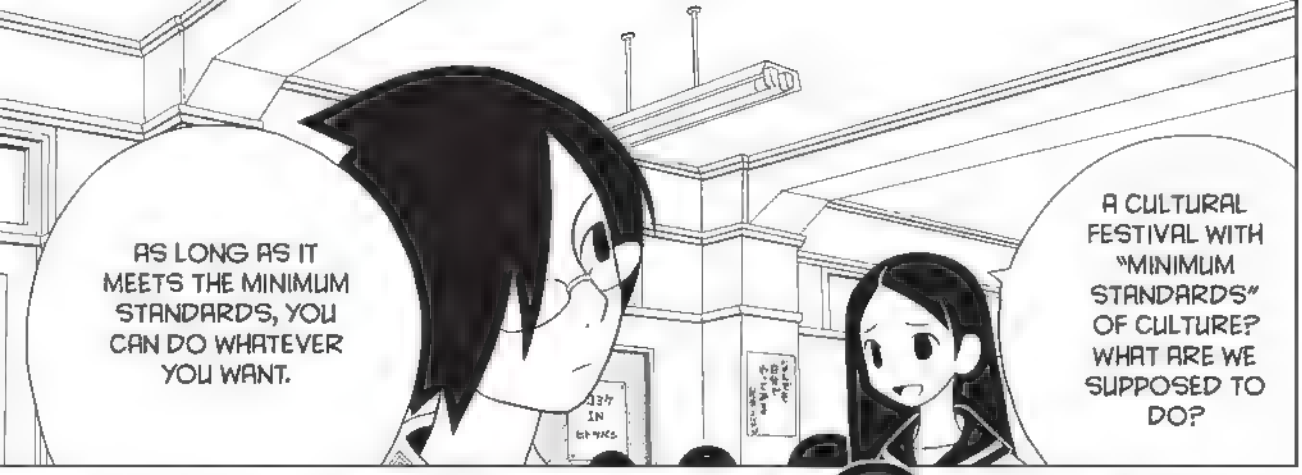
SLUMP
よろっ
W-WELL... IF IT'S GUARANTEED IN THE CONSTITUTION...
THEN I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

I-IT'S IN...
...THE CONSTITUTION ?!

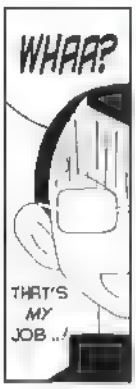
I WILL HAVE TO AGREE TO OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
MAN, MY AUTHORITY'S SO WEAK.

HOWEVER, WITH OUR COUNTRY HOLDING SUCH A LARGE NATIONAL DEBT...
WE'LL HAVE TO BE FRUGAL IN PLANNING OUR EVENT.

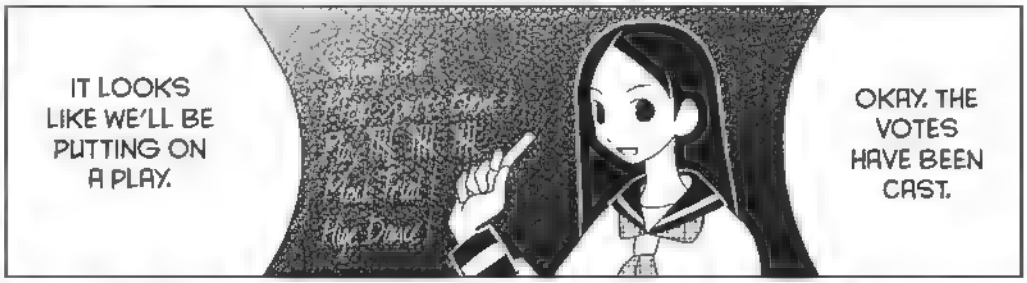
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL...
...WE'LL ADHERE TO THE PART IN THE CONSTITUTION THAT GUARANTEES THE "MINIMUM STANDARDS" OF CULTURED LIVING!


AS LONG AS IT MEETS THE MINIMUM STANDARDS, YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
A CULTURAL FESTIVAL WITH "MINIMUM STANDARDS" OF CULTURE? WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?

A HAUNTED HOUSE!
A REFRESHMENT STAND!


WHAA?
THAT'S MY JOB..!

PLEASE TURN IN YOUR SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT WE SHOULD DO.
VERY WELL THEN, EVERYONE.


IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE PUTTING ON A PLAY.
OKAY. THE VOTES HAVE BEEN CAST.

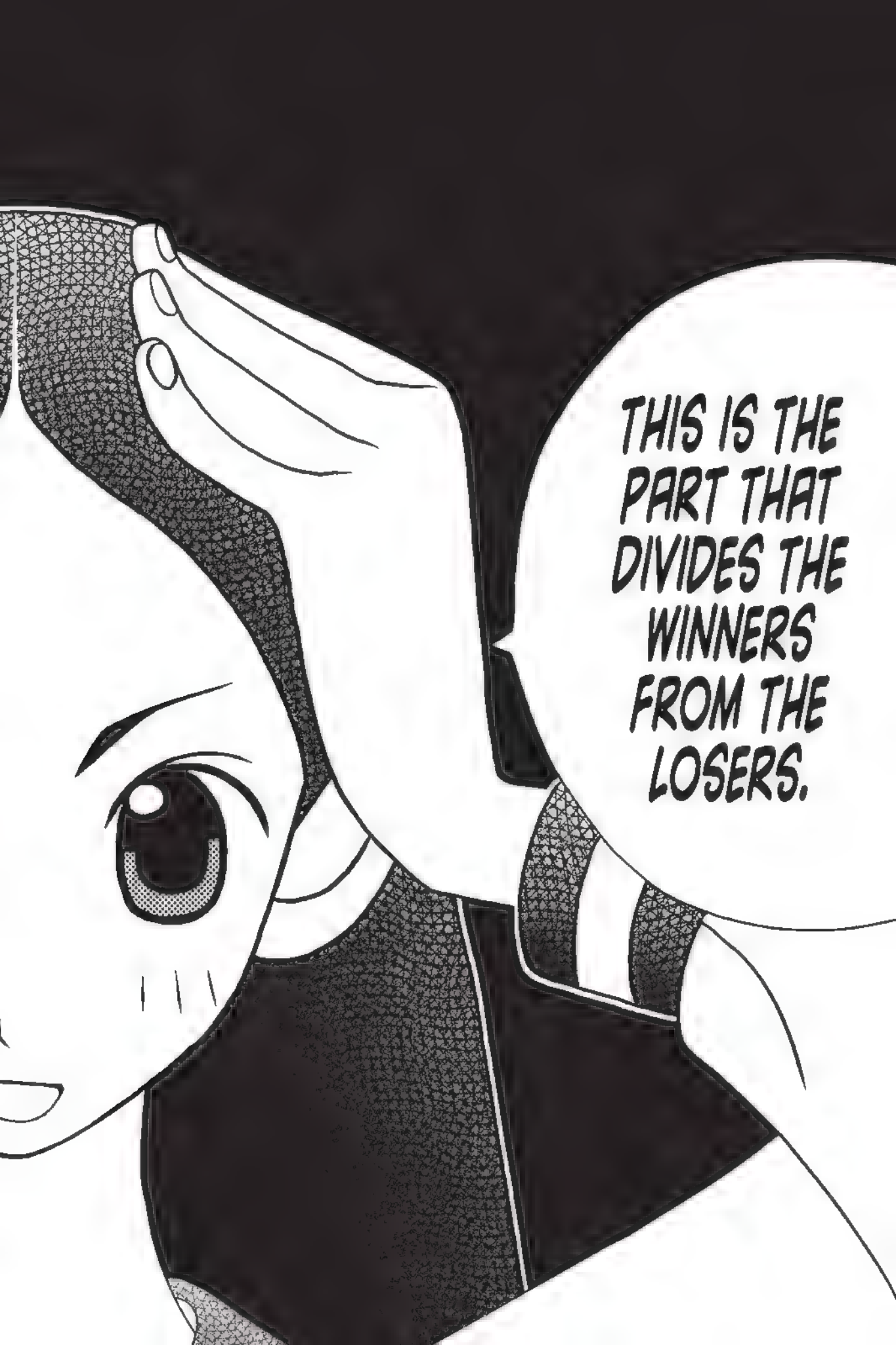
LET'S DO A REHEARSAL.

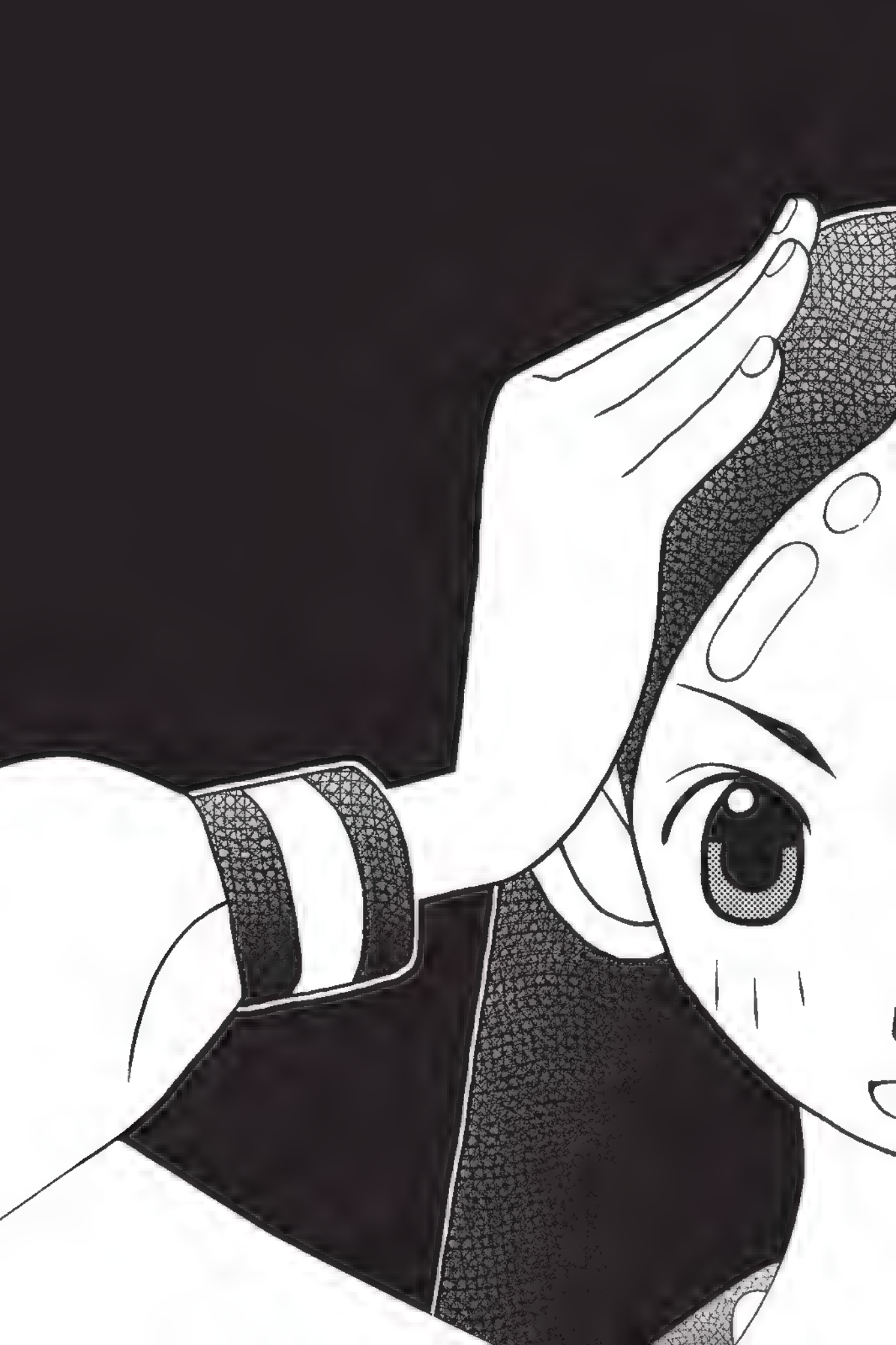
.....

YUCK! THAT'S LOUSY.
I, TATSUYA UESUGI, LOVE YOU, MINAMI ASAKURA.

HUH?
ISN'T THIS...
...A LITTLE TOO CULTURAL?
I AGREE IT'S PRETTY BAD ...
YES, BUT IS IT MINIMAL?
HMM...
CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC?
IT'S GOT TO BE EVEN MORE OF A MINIMUM CULTURAL PERFORMANCE!
IT'S SO HARD TO ACT AT JUST THE RIGHT LEVEL...
MAYBE YOU COULD CALL THAT A MINIMUM-CULTURE ACTING PERFORMANCE.
PERHAPS SOMETHING LIKE TAKESHI KANESHIRO'S JAPANESE ACTING ABILITY.
BUT I MADE SURE TO MAKE IT SUPER DUMBED DOWN!
THE SCRIPT IS TOO GOOD, TOO.
THAT ISN'T INTENDED AS PRAISE, IS IT?
AND THE ACTING LEVEL OF HARUO MIZUNO-SENSEI WOULD BE A BIT TOO HIGH.
GOD, THAT'S HARD!
WOULD THAT BE MORE ON THE LEVEL OF GUNDAM X?
BUT IF IT REACHES THE LEVEL OF A.I., IT'S TOO HIGH.
THE SCRIPT SHOULD BE ABOUT AS DUMB AS SIGNS.

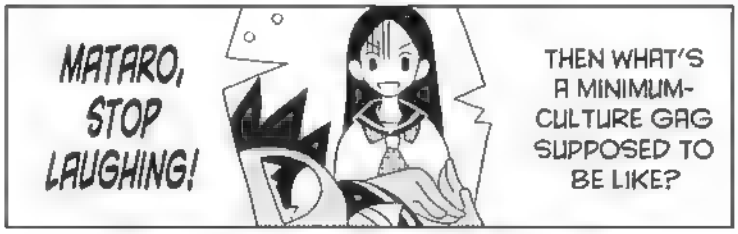
Macarena!
Band!
Samba!
WHAT A HASSLE.
SHALL WE DO SOME-THING ELSE, THEN?
IN ANY CASE, WITH THIS ACTING, THE CULTURAL LEVEL WOULD BE TOO HIGH, SO I CAN'T ACCEPT IT!
THIS SONG IS NO GOOD!
BLEENNG
ぼぇーーっ
KONG
BUT IT WAS SO AWFUL...
AGAIN...?
THAT'S TOO CULTURAL.
.....
THAT'S TOO HIGH?
BUT IF IT GOES TO THE LEVEL OF NAKAI-KUN, IT'LL BE TOO HIGH.
...IS AT ABOUT THE RIGHT MINIMUM-CULTURE SINGING ABILITY.
RYO FROM LONBOO...
CHIRI-KITSU
SO, LET'S GET ON WITH IT. MINIMUM-LEVEL CULTURAL GAGS...
THIS SORT OF ACT WILL TOUCH PEOPLE'S HEARTS. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS...
Doors!
Manzai!
Birdman Rally!


THIS IS THE PART THAT DIVIDES THE WINNERS FROM THE LOSERS.



CHIBI KITSU

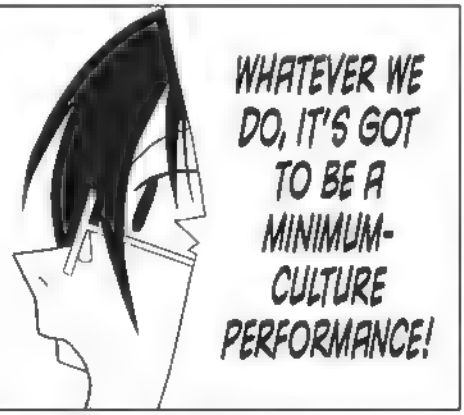
BUT THAT'S WITTY!

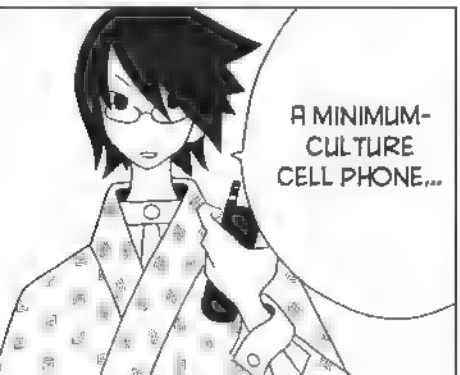

MATARO, STOP LAUGHING!
THEN WHAT'S A MINIMUM-CULTURE GAG SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE?

...PROBABLY ON THE LEVEL OF "NOCCHI DESSSSU."
WELL... A MINIMUM-CULTURE GAG WOULD BE...

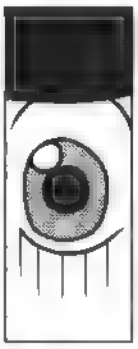
THAT'S NOT WITTY!
THAT'S TOO HIGH-CULTURE. IT'S GOT TO BE MUCH MORE LOW-BROW THAN THAT!

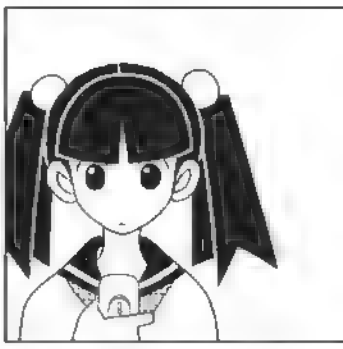
(BARE MINIMUM)
- CULTURAL ART → KUSANAGI-KUN'S ART
(BARE MINIMUM)
- CULTURAL RAP MUSIC → EAST END X YURI
(BARE MINIMUM)
- CULTURAL POETRY → NACCHI'S POETRY
(BARE MINIMUM)
- CULTURAL CHARACTER → YASSY-KUN
(BARE MINIMUM)
- CULTURAL PET → SEA MONKEYS
(BARE MINIMUM)
- CULTURAL HAIRSTYLE → KAKEFU'S HAIRSTYLE
(BARE MINIMUM)
- CULTURAL MAN → JUNICHI ISHIDA (IT'S AN IMMORAL CULTURE)

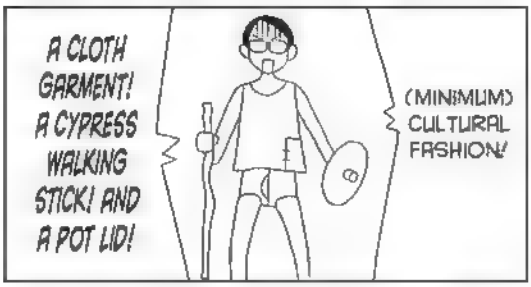




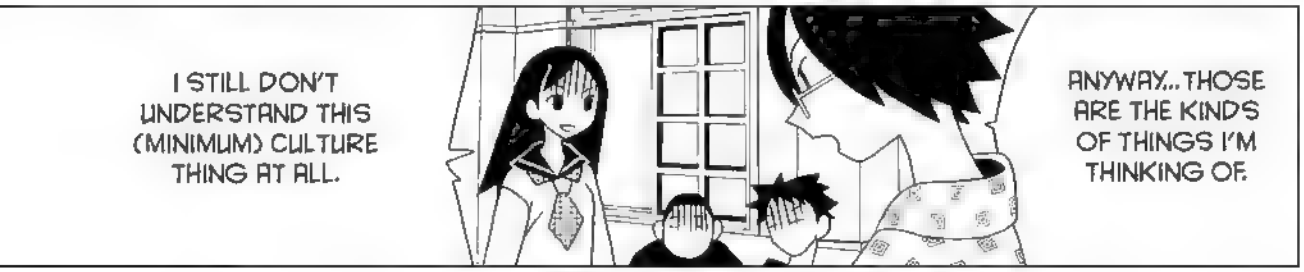
*SEE TRANSLATOR'S NOTES FOR DETAILS.

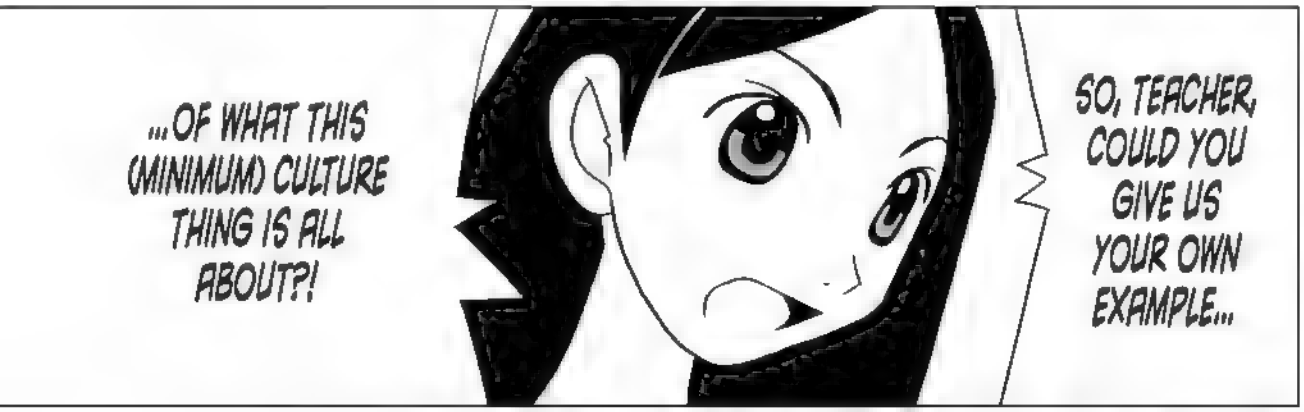


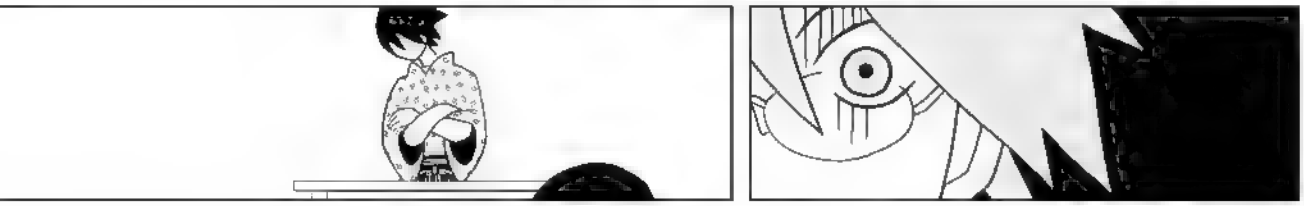


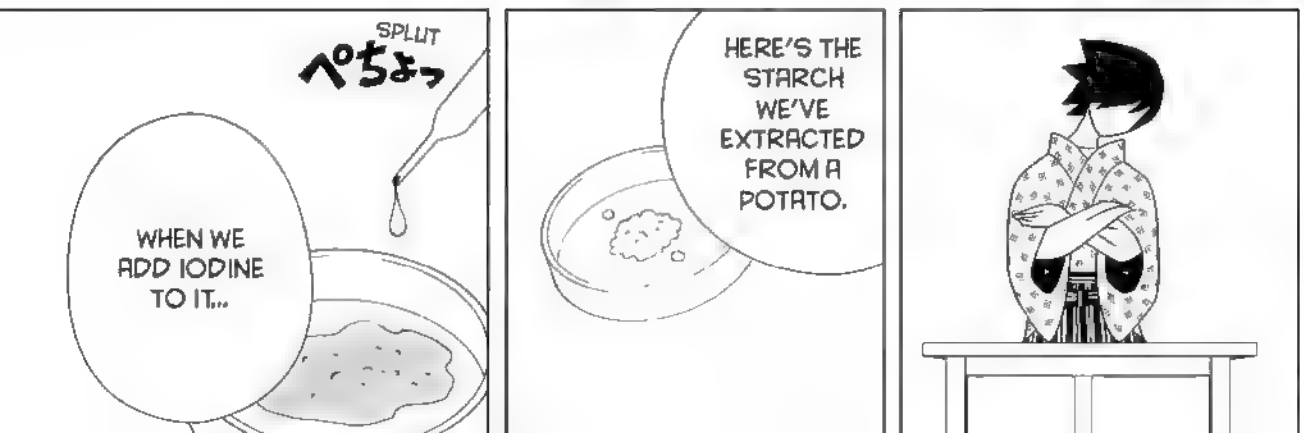


(MINIMUM) CULTURAL CRIME!
BLACKENING A 100 YEN COIN WITH A PENCIL!
ぐりぐり
SCRAPE SCRAPE
(MINIMUM) CULTURAL MEDICAL TECHNIQUES!
A KARATE CHOP TO THE BACK OF THE NECK WHEN YOU HAVE A BLOODY NOSE!
KRAK
ゴキッ
(MINIMUM) CULTURAL ROMANCE!
BEGGING ON YOUR KNEES "PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!"
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME.
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME.

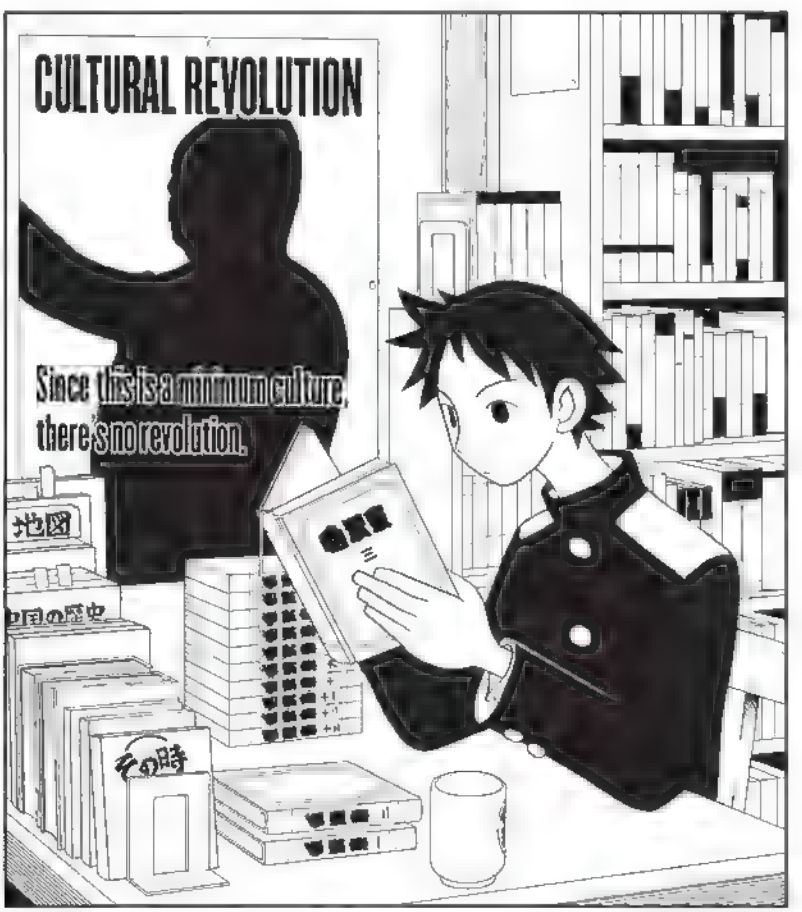

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS (MINIMUM) CULTURE THING AT ALL.
ANYWAY... THOSE ARE THE KINDS OF THINGS I'M THINKING OF.

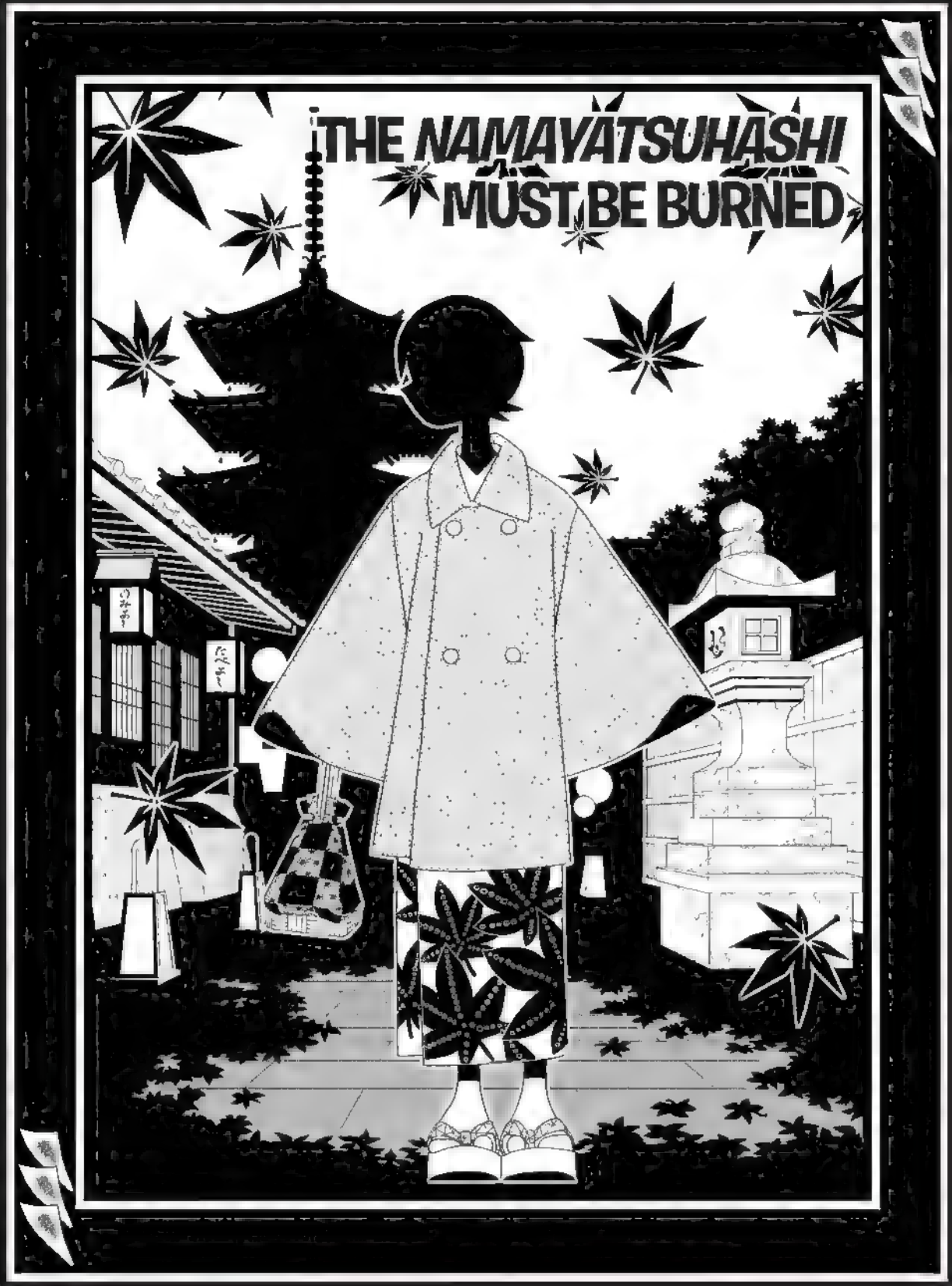

...OF WHAT THIS (MINIMUM) CULTURE THING IS ALL ABOUT?!
SO, TEACHER, COULD YOU GIVE US YOUR OWN EXAMPLE...




SPLUT
ぺちょっ
WHEN WE ADD IODINE TO IT...
HERE'S THE STARCH WE'VE EXTRACTED FROM A POTATO.

...IT TURNS PURPLE.
YES.
BAY 3
BAY 4
GOSH, I NEVER KNEW YOU COULD DO THIS.
.....
O-OH... I SEE.
...IT'S TOO HIGH-CULTURE.
BUT I HEARD IF YOU STICK A STRING ON A PIECE OF ICE USING SALT...
THAT DARN MARIA...!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S A REAL HIT WITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS.
ぎゃはははは
GAAR HAR HAR HAR HAR
"THIS IS THE PART THAT DIVIDES THE WINNERS FROM THE LOSERS!"


CULTURAL REVOLUTION
Since this is a minimum culture, there's no revolution.
地図
その時

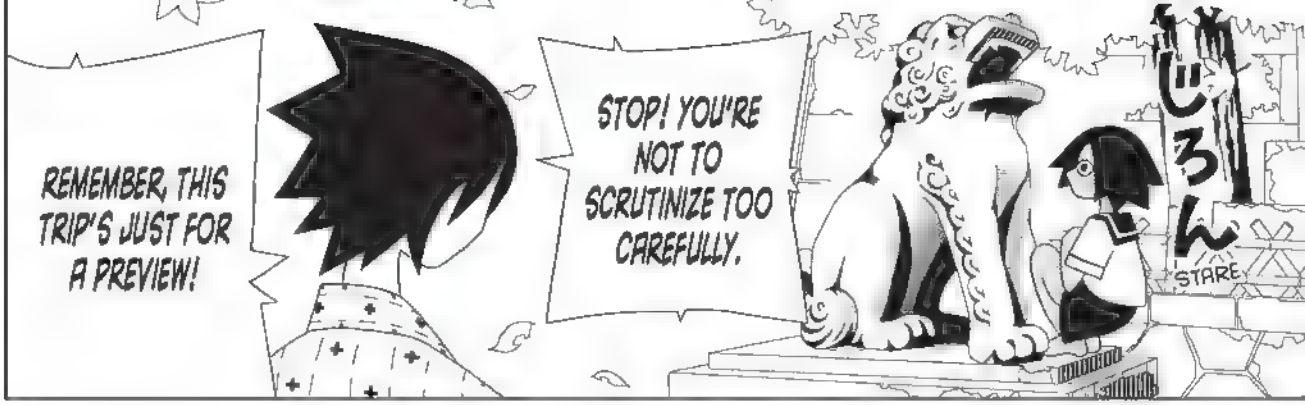


CHAPTER 24

THE WHOLE CLASS IS ON A SCHOOL TRIP TO KYOTO... SORT OF.
BUT IT ISN'T FUN AT ALL.
THAT'S BECAUSE...
STOP THAT!
DO YOU UNDER-STAND? AFTER ALL...
DON'T LOOK AT THINGS TOO CLOSELY OR THOROUGHLY.

WE'RE HERE ON A PREVIEW OF THE TRIP! GOT THAT?!
SO, YOU SEE... WE AREN'T HERE ON A TRIP, WE'RE HERE ON A *PREVIEW* OF OUR TRIP.
I'D NEVER HEARD OF AN ENTIRE CLASS GOING TO *PREVIEW* A FIELD TRIP.
YOU MEAN TO SAY, YOU EXPECTED TO GO ON A FIELD TRIP ALL OF A SUDDEN, WITHOUT ANY WARNING?
清水寺
本堂

WE'D ALL GET LOST, OR MIXED IN WITH STUDENTS FROM OTHER HIGH SCHOOLS!
WE'D GET *BUBUZUKE* SERVED TO US AS APPETIZERS.
...WE'D BE IN DEEP TROUBLE!
IF WE JUST SPONTANE-OUSLY WENT ON A FIELD TRIP, WITHOUT PREVIEWING IT...
...AND WE GO FOR FREE THROUGH THE INVITATION OF THE TRAVEL AGENCY.
THAT'S RIGHT...
BUT NORMALLY, ISN'T IT THE TEACHER'S JOB TO PREVIEW A SITE FOR A FIELD TRIP?
OF COURSE YOU HAVE. AND SO, IN ORDER NOT TO HAVE YOU DISSATISFIED, WE'RE ALL HERE PREVIEWING TOGETHER.
I'M SURE ALL OF YOU MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS UNFAIR FOR THE TEACHER TO GO ALONE.
WELL... MAYBE JUST A LITTLE.
THE MEDIA WILL HAVE A FIELD DAY WITH THIS!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, I'LL PUBLICIZE THE SHADY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR SCHOOL AND YOUR COMPANY.
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING! MAKING ME PAY FOR A WHOLE CLASS GOING FOR A PREVIEW...!
MR. KOJI FUKURO OF LETDOWN TRAVEL AGENCY
THAT'S WHY YOU WEREN'T HERE LAST EPISODE.
IT TOOK ONE WEEK TO CHECK EVERY-THING OUT.
THANKS FOR DOING THE INVESTI-GATION.


REMEMBER, THIS TRIP'S JUST FOR A PREVIEW!
STOP! YOU'RE NOT TO SCRUTINIZE TOO CAREFULLY.
じろん
STARE

FOR TIMID PEOPLE, PREVIEWS ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!
OF COURSE IT IS!
IS A PRE-VIEW REALLY NECES-SARY?

PREVIEW BEFORE GOING ON A DATE
PREVIEW BEFORE BUYING
PREVIEW OF SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS
PREVIEW OF A PACHINKO MACHINE
WHATEVER YOU DO, YOU NEED A PREVIEW!

WHA?
...YOU'D PREVIEW THE DATE FIRST, WOULDN'T YOU?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO GO ON A DATE WITH SOMEONE YOU LIKE...

I'D PREVIEW IT, SO I WOULDN'T MAKE ANY BLUNDERS!

DOYOG!
WE GET THE EXCITEMENT LA
WE MEET HERE.
HERE, WE HAVE DINNER.
HERE, WE KISS.
HERE, WE LOOK ..OVINGLY INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES.
AND WITH A ..TTLE LUCK...

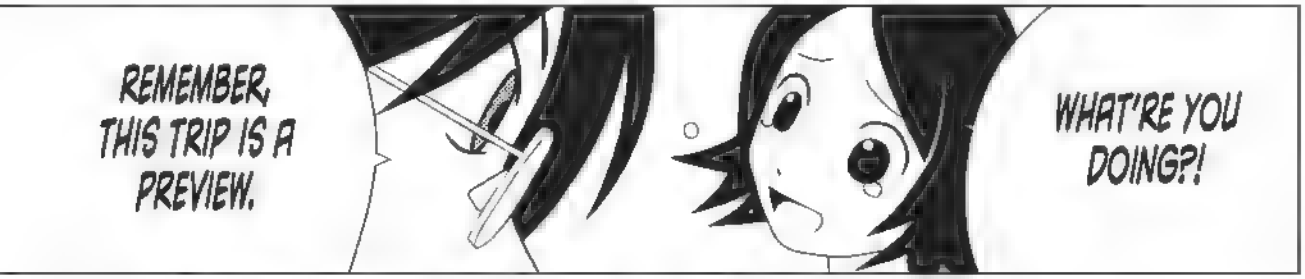
...A LOVE PREVIEW FOR YOUR TRUE LOVE IN THE FUTURE!
YOU KNOW, A HIGH SCHOOL LOVE IS LIKE...
BASICALLY, YOUR TEEN YEARS ARE THE PREVIEW PERIOD FOR YOUR FUTURE!
BLUSH
ぽ
YET, NOWADAYS, HIGH SCHOOLERS...
NO, NOT REALLY.
I THINK I'VE JUST SAID SOMETHING MARVELOUS.
...GO STRAIGHT TO THE REAL THING WITHOUT A PREVIEW!
DON'T TAKE MY FEELINGS RIGHT NOW TOO SERIOUSLY.
I GET IT. THAT'S WHAT LIEUTENANT SLEGGAR WAS TRYING TO SAY.
SO MIRAI-SAN WASN'T DOING A LOVE PREVIEW.
YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE YOUR REPUTA-TION.
I THINK I JUST SAID SOMETHING PRETTY COOL.

OKAY! IT'S TIME TO GATHER TOGETHER!

WHO PUT HER IN CHARGE?
I CAN'T STAND IT IF THESE THINGS AREN'T PRECISE.
EVERYTHING'S PLANNED IN TWO-MINUTE INTERVALS—EVEN THE HISTORICAL YEAR OF EACH PLACE IS NOTED.

THAT'S AS FAR AS YOU GO.
YUM! HERE GOES...
AH!
ぱっ
SWIPE

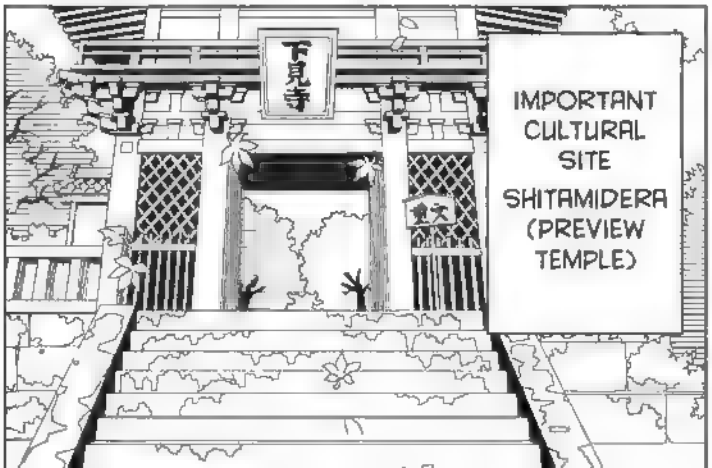
WHEN IN KYOTO, WE'VE GOT TO EAT THIS.

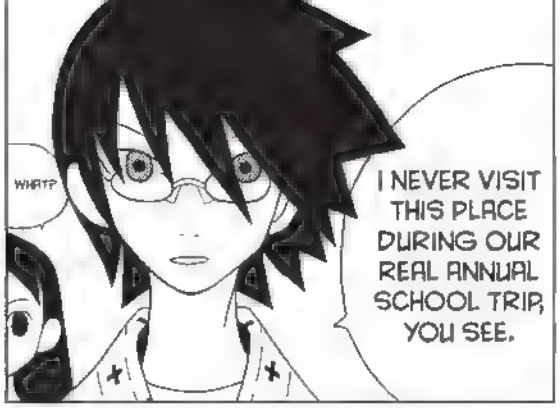

REMEMBER, THIS TRIP IS A PREVIEW.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

AGGH, THIS IS NO FUN...
REMEMBER, IT'S JUST A PREVIEW.

REMEMBER, IT'S JUST A PREVIEW.

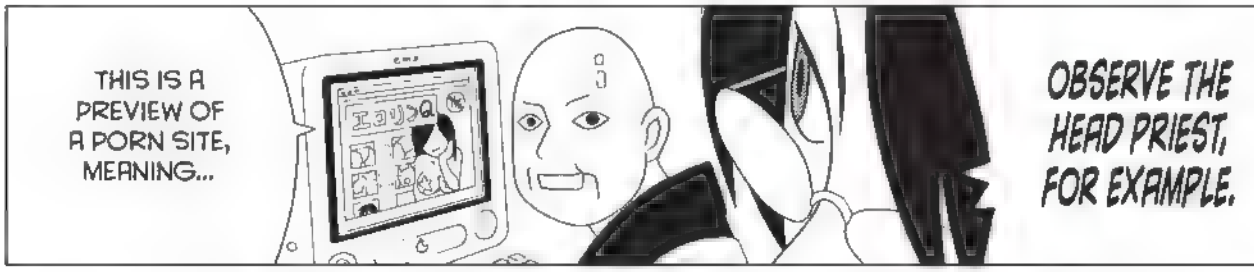
IT'S NOT SO WELL KNOWN BECAUSE IT'S A TEMPLE FOR PREVIEWING.
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THIS TEMPLE BEFORE.

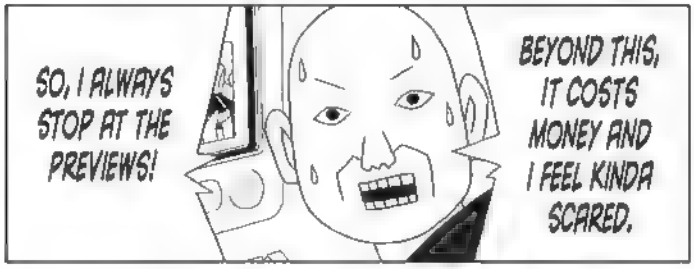

下見寺
IMPORTANT CULTURAL SITE
SHITAMIDERA (PREVIEW TEMPLE)


WHAT?
I NEVER VISIT THIS PLACE DURING OUR REAL ANNUAL SCHOOL TRIP, YOU SEE.

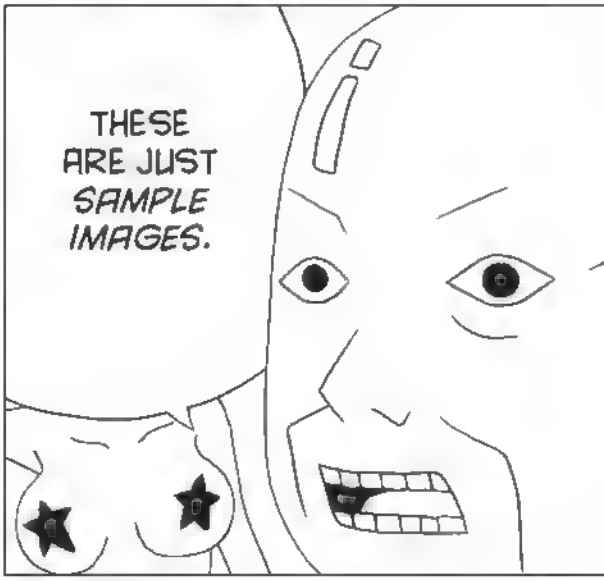
AH, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI, YOU'VE COME AGAIN THIS YEAR.
HEAD PRIEST, WE HAVE COME FOR A PREVIEW.

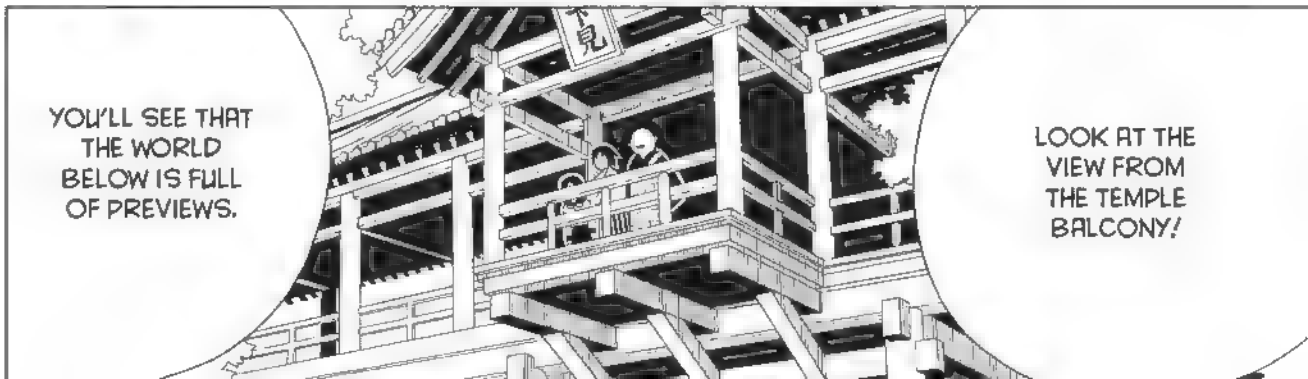
THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT END IN A PREVIEW.
DON'T BE SILLY.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF HAVING A PREVIEW IF YOU DON'T COME DURING THE REAL TRIP?

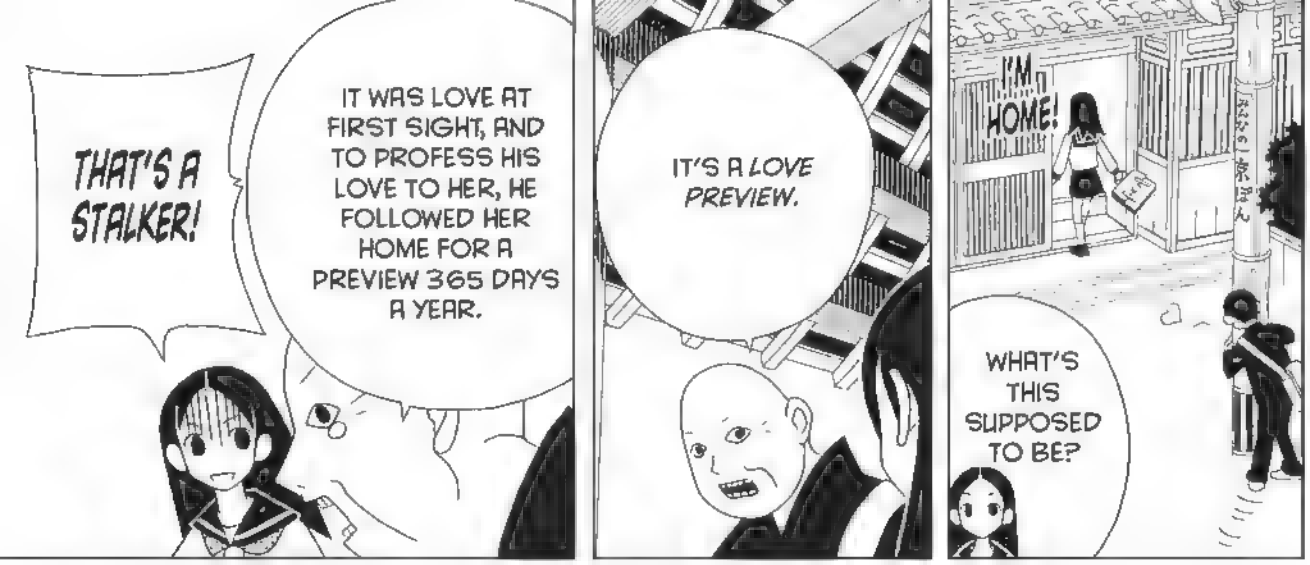

THIS IS A PREVIEW OF A PORN SITE, MEANING...
OBSERVE THE HEAD PRIEST, FOR EXAMPLE.

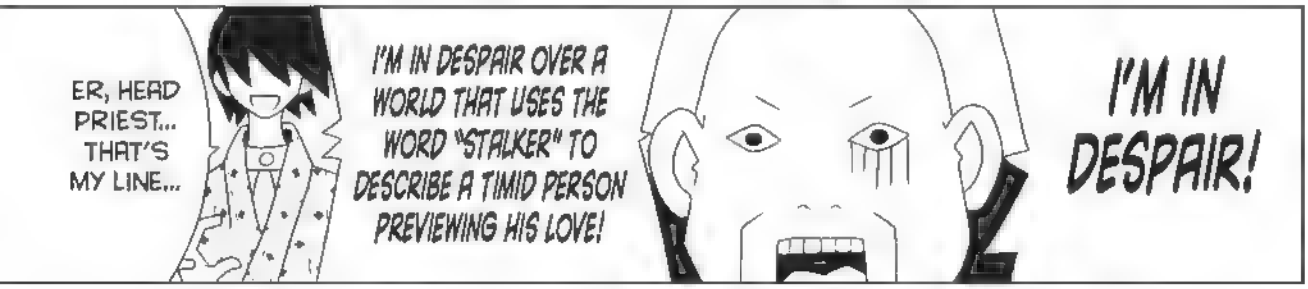

SO, I ALWAYS STOP AT THE PREVIEWS!
BEYOND THIS, IT COSTS MONEY AND I FEEL KINDA SCARED.

MOST COWARDLY PEOPLE DON'T GO BEYOND THE PREVIEWS.


THESE ARE JUST SAMPLE IMAGES.


YOU'LL SEE THAT THE WORLD BELOW IS FULL OF PREVIEWS.
LOOK AT THE VIEW FROM THE TEMPLE BALCONY!

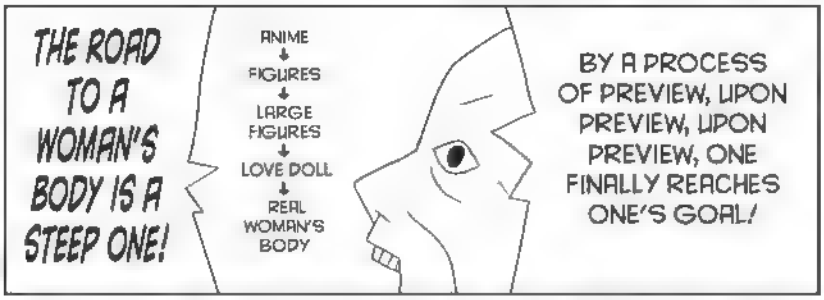

THAT'S A STALKER!
IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT, AND TO PROFESS HIS LOVE TO HER, HE FOLLOWED HER HOME FOR A PREVIEW 365 DAYS A YEAR.
IT'S A *LOVE PREVIEW.*
I'M HOME!
WHAT'S THIS SUPPOSED TO BE?


ER, HEAD PRIEST... THAT'S MY LINE...
I'M IN DESPAIR OVER A WORLD THAT USES THE WORD "STALKER" TO DESCRIBE A TIMID PERSON PREVIEWING HIS LOVE!
I'M IN DESPAIR!

...HE MIGHT HAVE A HEART ATTACK!
WITHOUT A PREVIEW, IF HE SUDDENLY SAW A REAL WOMAN'S BREASTS...

SOME GUY PLAYING WITH FIGURES?
OF COURSE. IT'S A *PREVIEW OF A WOMAN.*

THAT REMINDS ME, CHIRI-SAN.


THE ROAD TO A WOMAN'S BODY IS A STEEP ONE!
ANIME
↓
FIGURES
↓
LARGE FIGURES
↓
LOVE DOLL
↓
REAL WOMAN'S BODY
BY A PROCESS OF PREVIEW, UPON PREVIEW, UPON PREVIEW, ONE FINALLY REACHES ONE'S GOAL!

NO...I'M GOING TO DO IT *PROPERLY.*
YOU DON'T JUST MEAN A PREVIEW, DO YOU?
Y-YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO DO...*TH-THAT?*

WOULD YOU COME ALONG WITH ME TO THE *CEREMONY HALL?*

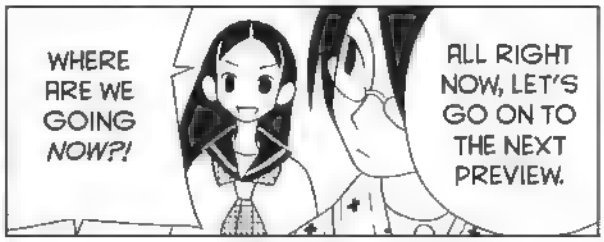
FUREIZU MORTUARY

WHAT OTHER KIND OF HALL COULD IT BE?
IT'S A FUNERAL HALL, OF COURSE.
WHAT *IS* THIS?

WELL, THE TEMPERATURE'S DOUBLE WHAT IT USED TO BE.
HOW HOT IS YOUR CREMATORIUM?
.....

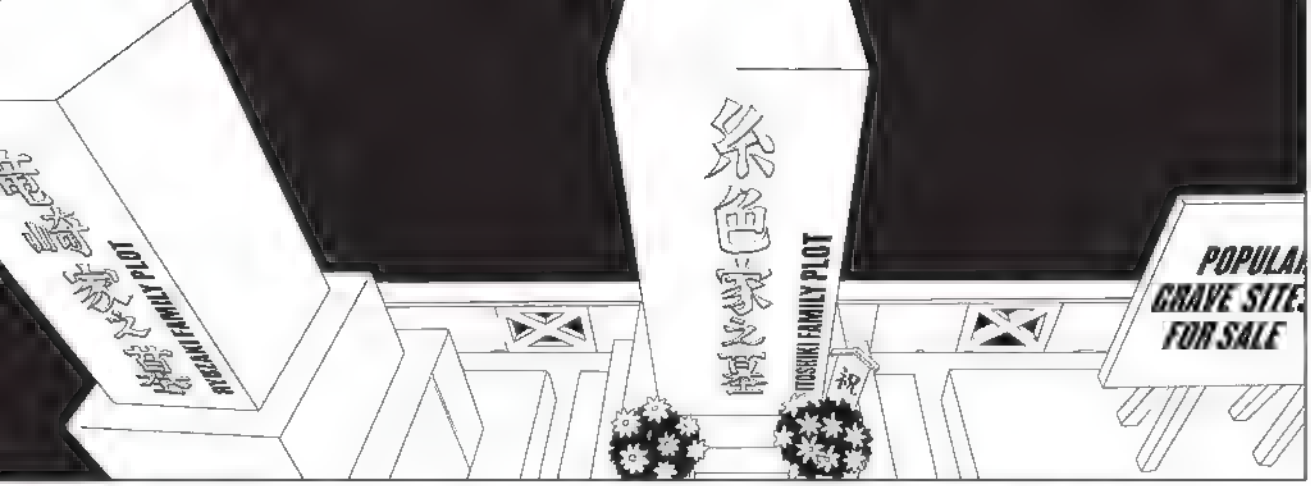
I HAVE TO PREVIEW IT NOW, BECAUSE IT'LL BE TOO LATE WHEN I'M DEAD.
MINE.
WHOSE FUNERAL?

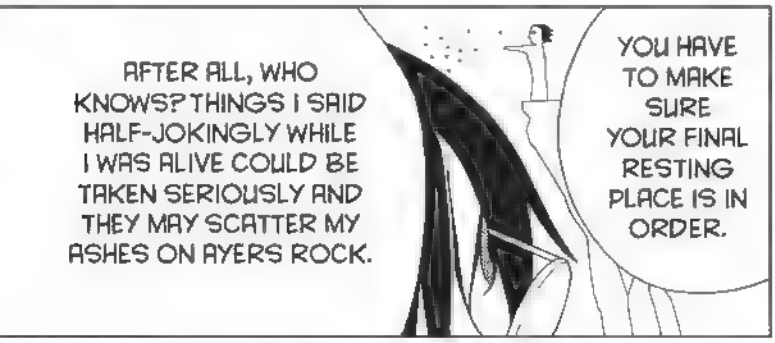
OH MY! I CAN BARELY BELIEVE IT. HOME SWEET HOME FOR THE TWO OF US...!


WHERE ARE WE GOING *NOW?!*
ALL RIGHT NOW, LET'S GO ON TO THE NEXT PREVIEW.

I FOUND SOME GOOD LAND, AND I'M GOING TO BUY A PLOT.

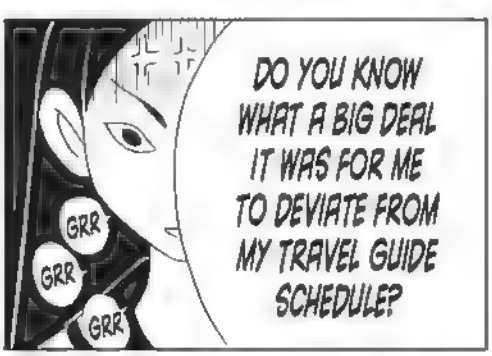
I THINK IT SHOULD BE A PRETTY GOOD FUNERAL.

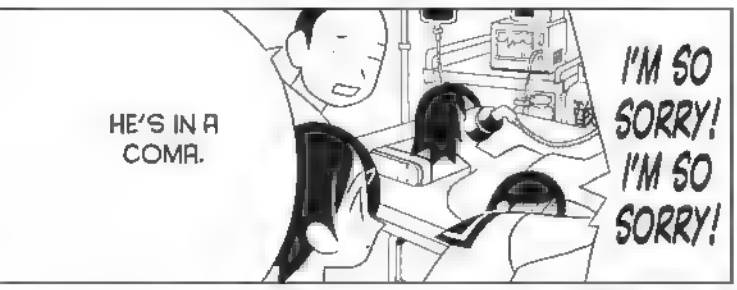

ITOSHIKI FAMILY PLOT
POPULAR GRAVE SITES FOR SALE

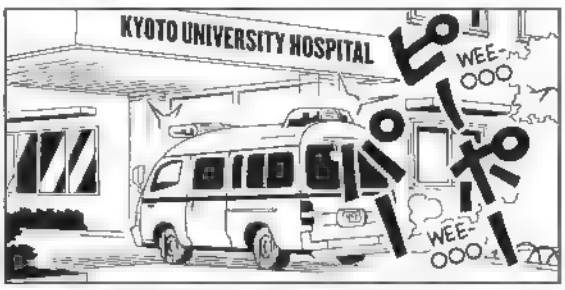

AFTER ALL, WHO KNOWS? THINGS I SAID HALF-JOKINGLY WHILE I WAS ALIVE COULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AND THEY MAY SCATTER MY ASHES ON AYERS ROCK.
YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOUR FINAL RESTING PLACE IS IN ORDER.

IT'S MY GRAVE. IT'S GOOD LUCK IF YOU BUY ONE WHILE YOU'RE ALIVE.
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?

BONK
GIVE ME BACK MY SCHEDULE!


GRR
GRR
GRR
DO YOU KNOW WHAT A BIG DEAL IT WAS FOR ME TO DEVIATE FROM MY TRAVEL GUIDE SCHEDULE?

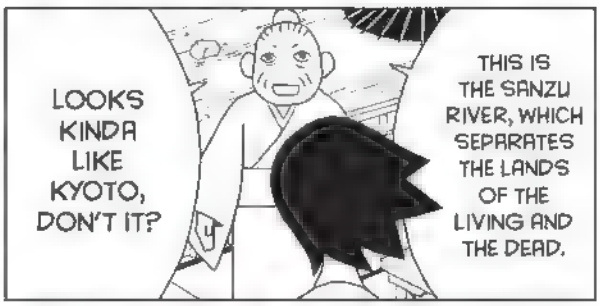

HE'S IN A COMA.
I'M SO SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!


KYOTO UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
WEE-OOO
WEE-OOO

HE'S JUST *PREVIEWING HIS NEXT LIFE.*
OH, DON'T WORRY! THERE'S NO WAY THAT HE COULD BE IN A COMA.

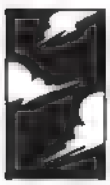
あはは
AAAH HA HA
あはは
AAAH HA HA

ARE YA HERE TA PREVIEW YER NEXT LIFE?
くいっ
FWIP

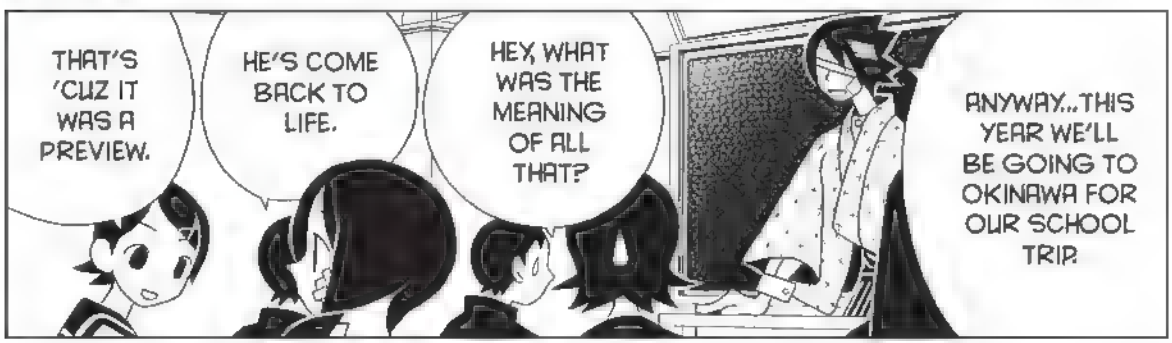

LOOKS KINDA LIKE KYOTO, DON'T IT?
THIS IS THE SANZU RIVER, WHICH SEPARATES THE LANDS OF THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.

WHAT IF I HAD DIED?!

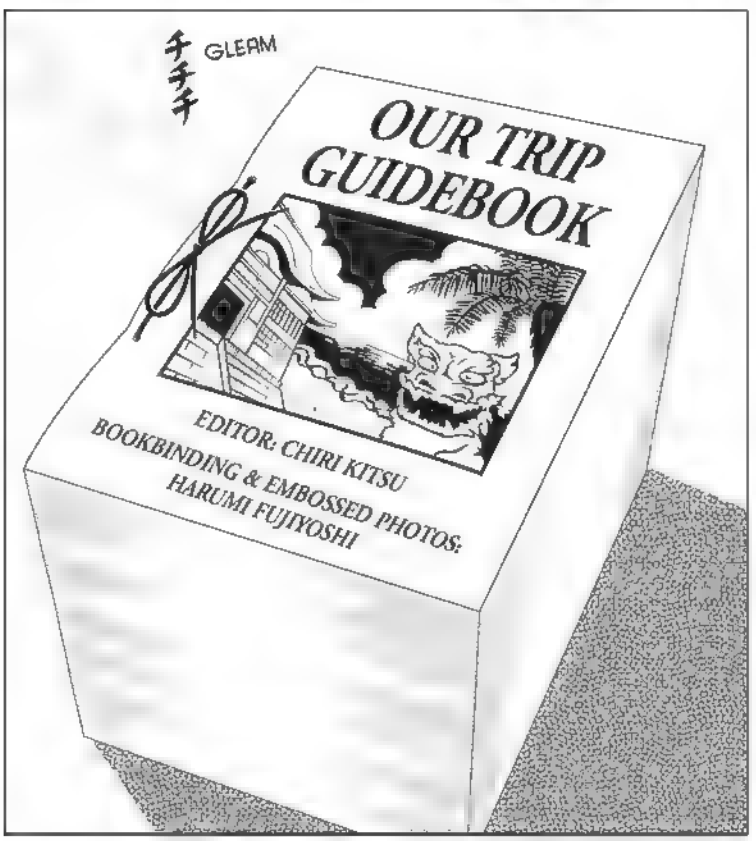
IF I CROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN, RIGHT?



HAA HAA HAA HA HA HA HA


THAT'S 'CUZ IT WAS A PREVIEW.
HE'S COME BACK TO LIFE.
HEY, WHAT WAS THE MEANING OF ALL THAT?
ANYWAY...THIS YEAR WE'LL BE GOING TO OKINAWA FOR OUR SCHOOL TRIP.

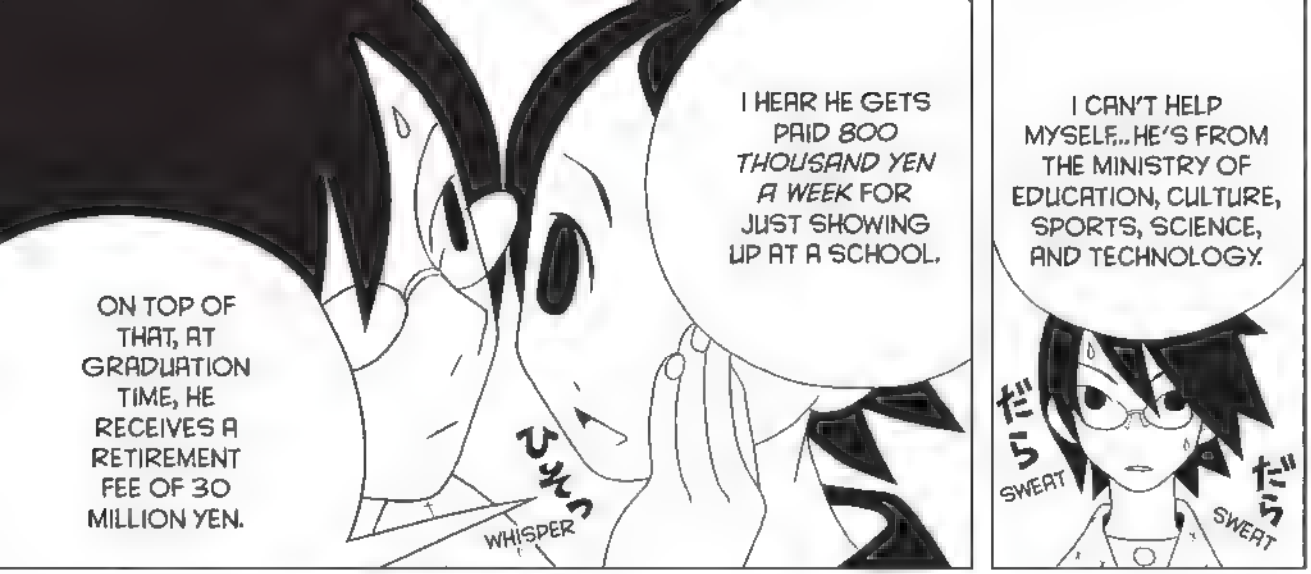
WRITE
WRITE


チチチ
GLEAM
OUR TRIP GUIDEBOOK
EDITOR: CHIRI KITSU
BOOKBINDING & EMBOSSED PHOTOS:
HARUMI FUJIYOSHI

CHAPTER 25

WHAT'S THIS MIDDLE-AGED GUY DOING IN MY CLASS?
WHO IS THIS?
THIS MAN...
PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT RUDE.
SHHH...

...IS AN *AMAKUDARI*. HE GOT HIS POSITION THROUGH INFLUENCE FROM ABOVE.
AN APPOINTMENT FROM ABOVE?!
I'VE COME FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE, SPORTS, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY.
WHY ARE YOU BUTTERING HIM UP?
OHHH, OF *COURSE*, SIR!


ON TOP OF THAT, AT GRADUATION TIME, HE RECEIVES A RETIREMENT FEE OF 30 MILLION YEN.
WHISPER
I HEAR HE GETS PAID 800 THOUSAND YEN A WEEK FOR JUST SHOWING UP AT A SCHOOL.
I CAN'T HELP MYSELF... HE'S FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE, SPORTS, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY.
SWEAT
SWEAT

BE VERY CAREFUL THAT NONE OF YOU ARE RUDE TO AMAKUDARI-SAMA!
LISTEN UP, EVERY-ONE!
TALK ABOUT AMUKADARI!
TH... THAT'S INCREDIBLE! JUST FOR SHOWING UP AT A SCHOOL HE GETS 800 THOUSAND YEN!

OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
JUST SIT THERE, RELAX, AND TAKE IT EASY, AMAKUDARI-SAMA. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO A THING, OKAY?

...IF YOU'D JUST DO NOTHING.
IT'D BE A WHOLE LOT BETTER FOR US...

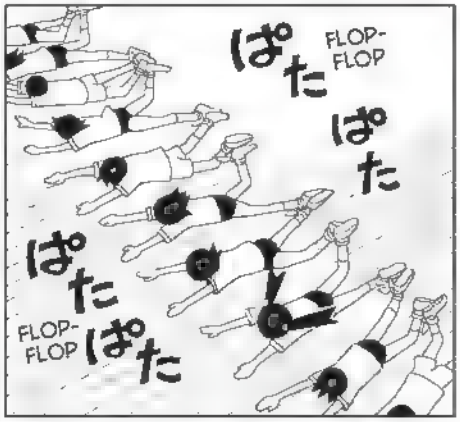
WATCH... HE'LL START SPOUTING ANYTHING THAT COMES TO HIS MIND...
IT'S AN INDUSTRY RULE THAT IF YOU LET AN AMAKUDARI DO ANY WORK, NO GOOD CAN COME OF IT.

I WANT TO MAKE MYSELF USEFUL TO THIS CLASS!
I'M NOT LIKE OTHER FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS WHO JUST WANT A CUSHY JOB.

SEE?... HERE IT COMES.
I HAVE A SUGGESTION.
TO INCREASE CLASS UNITY...
HOW ABOUT PUTTING ON A 30-PERSON, 31-LEGGED RACE.
30 PEOPLE... 31 LEGS...
I HAVE NO DOUBT IT'LL WORK!
BASED ON MY GOOD INSTINCTS AND MY MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE...
...INCREASE CLASS UNITY...?
ER...UM... YOU THINK THAT'LL...

JUST FIVE METERS TO GO! THIS'LL SET A NEW RECORD!
25M

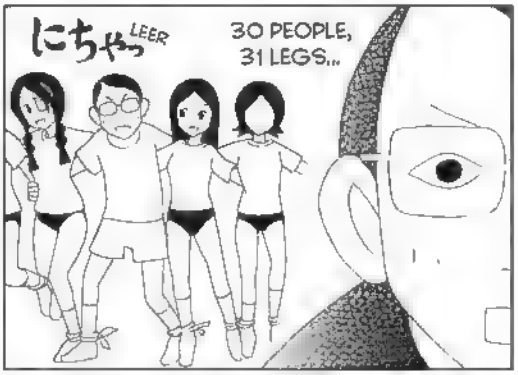
GLOOM
どよんど


ぱた
FLOP-FLOP
ぱた
ぱた
FLOP-FLOP
ぱた

OH!

HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
DASH
だっ

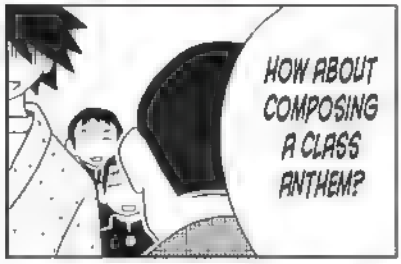
I CAN SEE THIS IS THE COMBINATION THAT'S RUINING JAPAN.
OH, YOU THINK SO, TOO?!
THAT'S GREAT, SIR! WHAT AN AMAZING IDEA!


にちゃっ
LEER
30 PEOPLE, 31 LEGS...

I HAVE A SUGGES-TION.
Y-YES... WHAT IS IT?

GEEZ... HERE WE GO AGAIN...
THAT'S BECAUSE I HAVE GOOD INSTINCTS AND MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE!
ふん
HRMPH
WELL, GOSH, WHEN I HEAR PRAISE LIKE THAT, THE IDEAS START FLOWING LIKE A FOUNTAIN!
HRMPH
ふん

HOW ABOUT MAKING A CLASS HOME PAGE?


HOW ABOUT COMPOSING A CLASS ANTHEM?

ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL, MAKE CERTAIN TO THROW AWAY ONE PIECE OF GARBAGE.

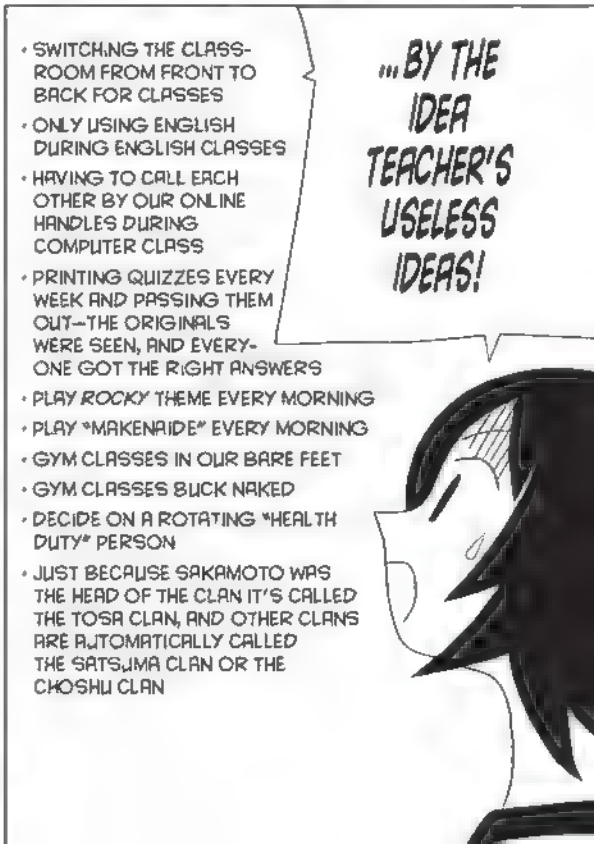
LET'S BAN MECHANICAL PENCILS.

WE'VE BEEN VICTIMIZED NUMEROUS TIMES...
OH NO! HE'S THE "IDEA TEACHER"!

THIS FEELS FAMILIAR... SOME-HOW...

IF THIS GOES ON, HE'LL START TELLING US TO GATHER THE FOIL PAPER FROM CIGA-RETTE PACKS.
TEACHER, DO SOME-THING!

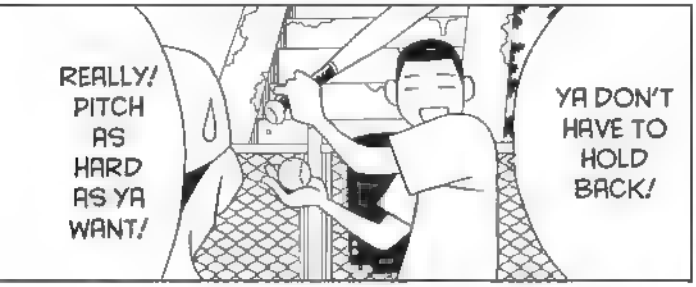
I'M AGAINST AMA-KUDARI!
BUT AMAKUDARI ISN'T JUST CONFINED TO THE BUREAUCRATIC OLD-BOY NETWORK.

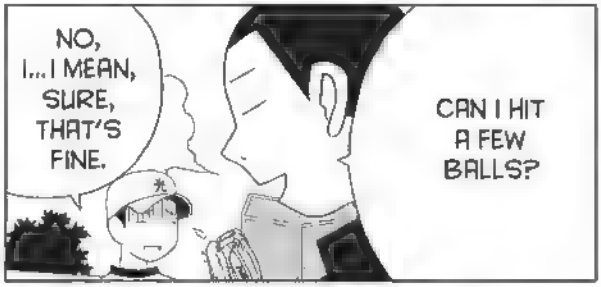

...BY THE IDEA TEACHER'S USELESS IDEAS!
• SWITCHING THE CLASS-ROOM FROM FRONT TO BACK FOR CLASSES
• ONLY USING ENGLISH DURING ENGLISH CLASSES
• HAVING TO CALL EACH OTHER BY OUR ONLINE HANDLES DURING COMPUTER CLASS
• PRINTING QUIZZES EVERY WEEK AND PASSING THEM OUT—THE ORIGINALS WERE SEEN, AND EVERY-ONE GOT THE RIGHT ANSWERS
• PLAY ROCKY THEME EVERY MORNING
• PLAY "MAKENAIDE" EVERY MORNING
• GYM CLASSES IN OUR BARE FEET
• GYM CLASSES BUCK NAKED
• DECIDE ON A ROTATING "HEALTH DUTY" PERSON
• JUST BECAUSE SAKAMOTO WAS THE HEAD OF THE CLAN IT'S CALLED THE TOSA CLAN, AND OTHER CLANS ARE AUTOMATICALLY CALLED THE SATSUMA CLAN OR THE CHOSHU CLAN

IN THIS VERY CLASS, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO'VE DONE AMAKUDARI!
LIKE WHO?
EVERYWHERE WE LOOK, AMAKUDARI RUNS RAMPANT IN OUR DAILY LIVES!

LH... HELLO, SENPAI.
HOW'S IT GOING?
GEEZ...
YOU WENT TO THE JUNIOR HIGH THE OTHER DAY, DIDN'T YOU?

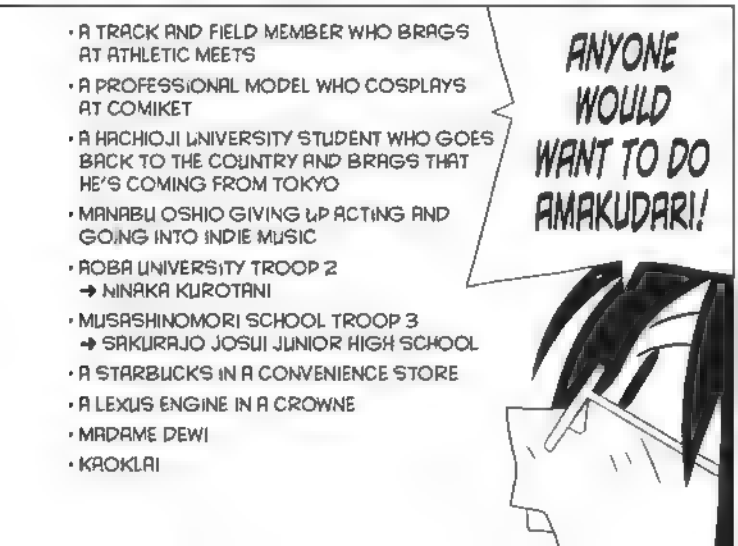
YOU THERE.
YOU MEAN ME?


REALLY! PITCH AS HARD AS YA WANT!
YA DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK!


NO, I... I MEAN, SURE, THAT'S FINE.
CAN I HIT A FEW BALLS?

OH MAN... THIS DAY SUCKS.

BUT, ACTUALLY, IT WAS IN FIELD.
WHACK
カキーン
WHACK
カキーン
WAY OUT IN LEFT FIELD!!


• A TRACK AND FIELD MEMBER WHO BRAGS AT ATHLETIC MEETS
• A PROFESSIONAL MODEL WHO COSPLAYS AT COMIKET
• A HACHIOJI UNIVERSITY STUDENT WHO GOES BACK TO THE COUNTRY AND BRAGS THAT HE'S COMING FROM TOKYO
• MANABU OSHIO GIVING UP ACTING AND GOING INTO INDIE MUSIC
• AOBA UNIVERSITY TROOP 2 → NINAKA KUROTANI
• MUSASHINOMORI SCHOOL TROOP 3 → SAKURAJO JOSUI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
• A STARBUCKS IN A CONVENIENCE STORE
• A LEXUS ENGINE IN A CROWNE
• MADAME DEWI
• KAOKLAI
ANYONE WOULD WANT TO DO AMAKUDARI!

I JUST WANTED TO BOAST A LITTLE! THAT'S ALL!
AMAKUDARI WITH CLUB ACTIVITIES ARE A NUISANCE, YOU KNOW.

AMUKADARI, DON'TCHA KNOW?
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?
EVEN ME!
...AND I'VE DECIDED TO BE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT!
I'M GONNA DO AN AMAKUDARI...
HEY, LET'S TALK ABOUT THE GIRLS WE LIKE.
YOU WANT SOME KYABETSU TARO?
LET'S READ SOME JUMP MANGA AND EXCHANGE 'EM SO WE DON'T HAVE TO BUY OUR OWN COPIES!
COULD YOU LEND ME A BOTTOM FOR MY JERSEY?

I'M GOING TO HAVE A FULFILLED HIGH SCHOOL LIFE!
SENSEI, IS THAT YOUR IMAGE OF A HIGH SCHOOLER'S LIFE?
BURN TANGERINE SKINS ON A HIBACHI
ACCIDENTALLY GET TOOTHPASTE POWDER ON MY PANTS
PEE IN THE TEACHERS' TOILETS IN THE STAFF ROOM
GO OUT WITH GIRLS I DON'T REALLY LIKE

HE'S A CLASSMATE, SO IT'D BE STRANGE IF I DIDN'T ADDRESS HIM PROPERLY.
"ITOSHIKI-KUN"?

STOP WITH ALL THIS NONSENSE!
ITOSHIKI-KUN!

SHEESH... THEY'RE STARTING A LITTLE SKIT.
WHOA, YOU'RE SCARIN' ME, CHAIRMAN! DON'T BE SO UPTIGHT!
ITOSHIKI-KUN! YOU NEED TO TAKE SCHOOL MORE SERIOUSLY!

SO THAT'S CHIRI-CHAN'S VIEW OF A PROPER HIGH SCHOOL LIFE...
3) GO AROUND CORNERS AT A RIGHT ANGLE
SHIRO
HEY, JOHN!
1) GREET THE SAME DOG EVERY MORNING
4) DRINK SPORTOP AFTER CLUB ACTIVITIES
2) DRAW CHALK LINES ON THE TRACK FIELD NICE AND STRAIGHT
YOU NEED TO LIVE A MORE PROPER HIGH SCHOOL LIFE!

...BUT I STILL CAN'T THROW MY WEIGHT AROUND! I'M IN DESPAIR!
I AMAKUDARIED TO BEING A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT...

URGH...
ガミ SCOLD
ガミ SCOLD
ON A FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL, YOU HAVE THE WRONG ATTITUDE TO LIFE, ITOSHIKI-KUN!

YOMAWARI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
WAIT, ITOSHIKI-KUN!
DASH
だっ
I'M JUST GONNA AMAKUDARI EVEN FURTHER!

UM...NO THANKS. I'M GONNA HAVE TO PASS.
HEY! LET'S CARVE HOLES IN OUR DESK AND PLAY GOLF WITH BB'S!
WHAT A PAIN...
WHAT A PAIN...

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DON'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT NOWADAYS.
きゅっ
SQUEAK
きゅっ
SQUEAK

I WON'T LET YOU GO TILL YOU GET THINGS RIGHT!
YOU BETTER WATCH IT, ITOSHIKI-KUN!
ガラッ
SHFF
I'LL WEAR MY SCHOOL UNIFORM BACKWARDS AND PLAY UMPIRE
I'LL JUMP OUT OF THE SECOND-STORY WINDOW
I'LL BRING A DOG INTO THE SCHOOLYARD AND CREATE A COMMOTION
I'LL GRAB A FAT GIRL'S BOOBS
I'M GOING TO HAVE A FULFILLED JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL LIFE!

ASAGAERI PRIMARY SCHOOL
I'M GOING TO GO FURTHER AND FURTHER INTO AMAKUDARI!
DARN IT, CHAIRMAN! YOU'RE ALWAYS RAGGIN' ON ME!

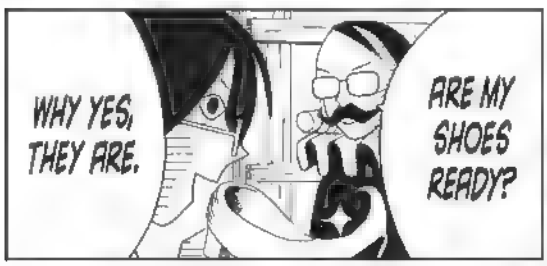
PRIMARY-SCHOOL STUDENTS DON'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT NOWADAYS.
HEY, LET'S MAKE MUD BALLS!
WHAT A PAIN...

I'LL AMAKUDARI EVEN MORE!
YIKES! SUCH PERSIS-TENCE!
ガラ
SHFF
WATCH IT, ITOSHIKI-KUN!

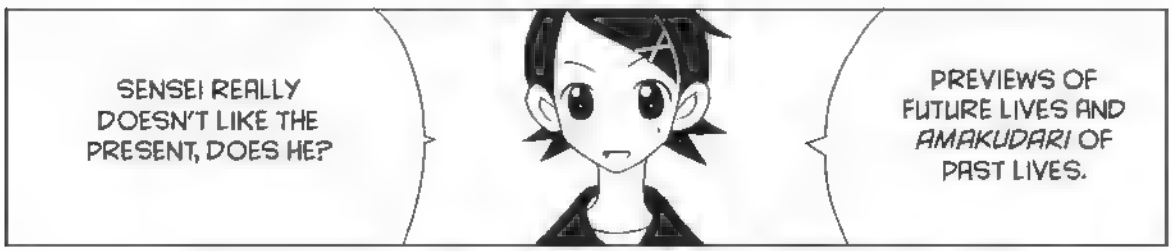
I'LL GO WITH YOU!
だっ
POP
I'LL BEAT YOU TO IT BY AMAKUDARI-ING AHEAD OF YOU!
YOU CAN'T IGNORE ME AND DO THIS!
I...I CAN'T ALLOW THAT!

HEE HEE HEE! NO ONE CAN AMAKUDARI MORE THAN THIS!
ガーン
GAAH.
MATSUTAKE OB-GYN

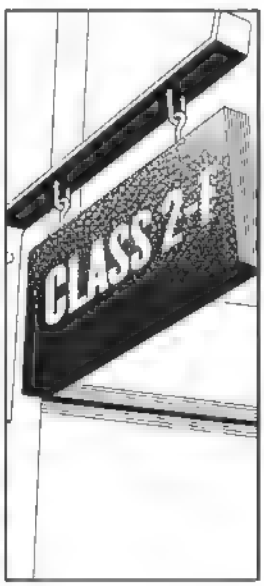
...INTO YOUR PAST LIFE...
AMA-KUDARI...
DON'T WORRY. YOU CAN AMAKUDARI EVEN FURTHER.


ARE MY SHOES READY?
WHY YES, THEY ARE.

M-MY PAST LIFE IS SORT OF UNCANNY...


SENSEI REALLY DOESN'T LIKE THE PRESENT, DOES HE?
PREVIEWS OF FUTURE LIVES AND *AMAKUDARI* OF PAST LIVES.

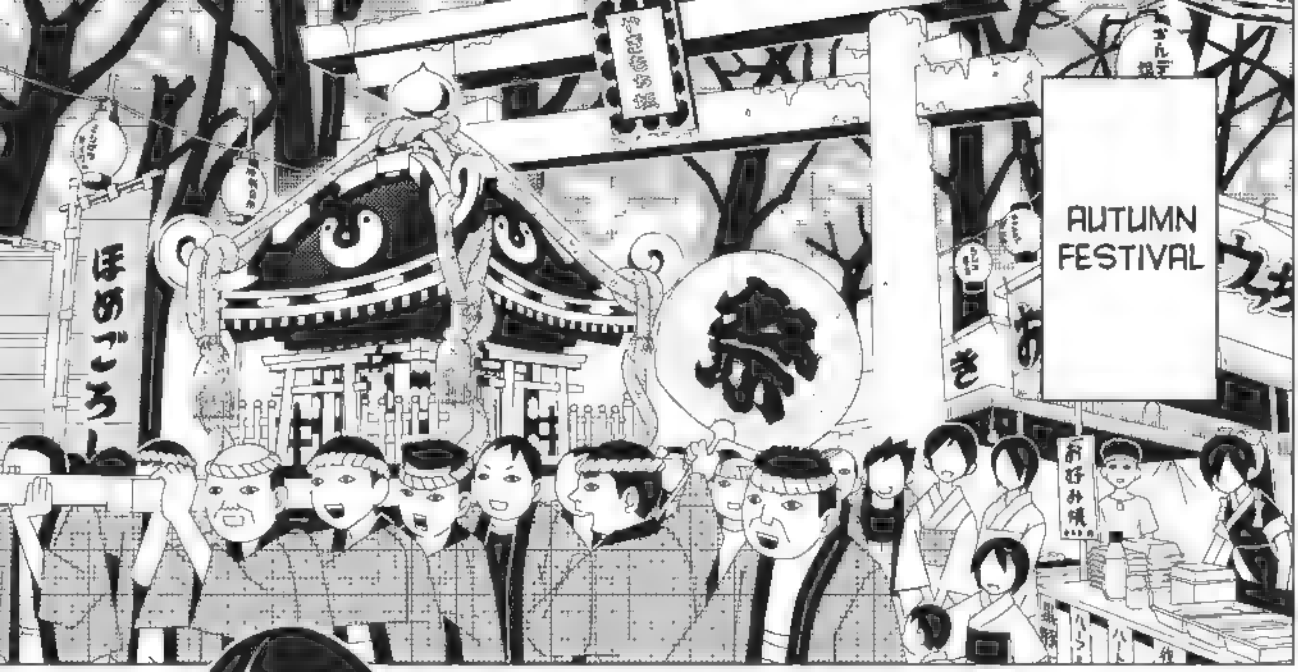
THAT'S CALLED FLUNKING OUT...
LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE IN CLASS IS GOING TO *AMAKUDARI*.
GUESS WE'LL BE REPEATING YEAR TWO OF JUNIOR HIGH.


CLASS 2-1

YOU'RE LOOKING TO GET MORE RETIREMENT PAY, AREN'T YOU?
PUFF
ふぁっ
YOU QUITTIN' SCHOOL?
整理整頓

AS GREGOR SAMSA AWOKE ONE MORNING HE FOUND HIMSELF CARRYING A MIKOSHI

CHAPTER 26


AUTUMN FESTIVAL
ほめごろし
祭
お好み焼

HOW WONDERFUL. THERE'S THE MIKOSHI.
THE EXCITEMENT'S REALLY RISING, ISN'T IT?

YOU THINK THE EXCITEMENT'S RISING, EH? JUDGE FOR YOURSELF.
SENSEI...

THE JAPANESE HAVE A BAD HABIT OF GOING CRAZY FOR FESTIVALS!
THEY GET SWAYED BY THE MIKOSHI AND START DANCING ALL OVER THE PLACE!

IF THE EVIL SPIRITS OF BIG BUSINESS LIKE SOMETHING, THEY LIFT IT UP LIKE A *MIKOSHI* AND WORSHIP IT!
I'M SAYING THAT, EVEN IF SOMETHING'S NOT ALL THAT GREAT, WHEN YOU PUT IT ON A *MIKOSHI*...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SUDDENLY EVERYONE WORSHIPS IT!
...PEOPLE THINK IT'S SOMETHING AMAZING!
THAT'S A "BEAUTY" MIKOSHI!
BEAUTIFUL!
びぃじぃん
TAKE A LOOK AT THAT!

THEY WORSHIP HER AS A BEAUTY AND THE PUBLICISTS TREAT HER LIKE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN JAPAN.

EVEN IF A WOMAN'S NOT ALL THAT GOOD-LOOKING, IF SHE'S A LITTLE PRETTIER THAN AVERAGE...

THEY PUT HER ON THE MIKOSHI PEDESTAL AND WORSHIP HER! THEY WORSHIP HER!

"SHE'S A BEAUTIFUL MANGA ARTIST!" "SHE'S A BEAUTIFUL SELF-DEFENSE FORCE OFFICIAL!" "SHE'S A BEAUTIFUL LAWYER!"

AND EVEN WITH A SO-SO BEAUTY, THE INDUSTRY PEOPLE EXCLAIM...

OR HOW ABOUT THIS ONE THEY CALL *"TODAI'S SEIKO-CHAN"?!*

SHE'S PUT ON A PEDES-TAL!

FOR INSTANCE, TAKE THE BEAUTIFUL VOLLEY-BALL PLAYER KAORU-HIME.

...WOULD BE "KODANSHA'S SAKURAI MISUCHIRU"!

BY THAT STANDARD, THE CURRENT EDITOR OF *SHONEN MAGAZINE*...

THEY LOOK MORE ALIKE THAN YAWARA-CHAN AND YAWARA-CHAN.

ARE THEY SUPPOSED TO LOOK ALIKE?

MIKOSHI LIKE THESE ARE BEING RAISED EVERYWHERE.

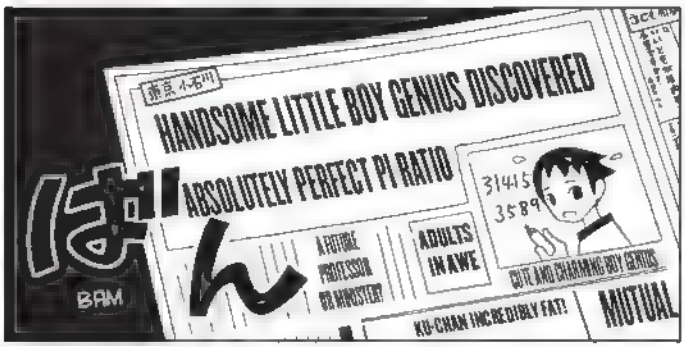
THE EDITOR IN CHARGE WOULD BE *"SHONEN MAGAZINE'S* MIRAI MORIYAMA"!

SHONEN MAGAZINE'S ASSISTANT EDITOR WOULD BE JEAN RENO!

WHAT MIKOSHI IS THAT?
THAT'S THE "FUNNY" MIKOSHI.
おもしろいっ
FUNNY!
縁多之神
旋風
THEY EVEN LIFT UP DUBIOUS PERFORMERS.
THEY WORSHIP 'EM LIKE THEY'RE REALLY GOOD.
THAT'S THE "CHARISMA" MIKOSHI!
BEAUTICIANS, HOUSEWIVES, LAWYERS... THEY PUT THE WORD "CHARISMA" ON 'EM AND LIFT 'EM UP TO BE WORSHIPPED!
カリスマ
CHARISMA!
THAT'S THE ANIMAL MIKOSHI!
A SEAL GETS A LITTLE LOST, AND EVERYONE'S OUT WORSHIPPING IT, SCREAMING, "CUTE, CUTE!"
たまちゃん
TAMA-CHAN!
TAMA-CHAN CHANT
AND LOOK! HERE COMES ANOTHER ANIMAL MIKOSHI FROM THE OTHER DIRECTION.
THIS IS A FIGHTING MIKOSHI!
うたちゃん
UTA-CHAN!
CUTE
IF THE BIG MEDIA LIKE SOMETHING, THEY'LL LIFT ANYTHING UP!
LOOK AT THE PATHETIC MASSES SWAYED INTO DANCING AROUND THAT MIKOSHI!
たった
IT STANDS!
GREAT POSTURE
イエ
YAY!

...AND YOU LIFT THE BOOK ONTO A MIKOSHI, IT SELLS OVER A MILLION COPIES!
IF A PERSON JUST DIES IN A NOVEL...
YOU KNOW, IT'S REALLY GOOD TO LIFT A MIKOSHI.
I CRIED!
I CRIED!
I CRIED!
IT MADE A MILLION PEOPLE DANCE!
NOPE.
PLEASE PUT ME ON THAT MIKOSHI!!
3.141592 6535897
YEAH, WHAT SHALL WE LIFT?
OKAY, WHAT SHALL WE LIFT UP NOW?
YEAH, SHALL WE LIFT HIM UP?
SHALL WE LIFT HIM UP?
YOU CAN RECITE PI?
3.141592 6535897
HE'S A GENIUS PI BOY!
HE'S A GENIUS PI BOY!

AT THAT AGE, I COULD HAVE RECITED IT, TOO.
...WHO CAN RECITE PI!
PI BOY
...LITTLE BOY...
BIG GENIUS
THE GENIUS...


HANDSOME LITTLE BOY GENIUS DISCOVERED
ABSOLUTELY PERFECT PI RATIO
ばーん
BAM
A FUTURE PROFESSOR OR MINISTER?
ADULTS IN AWE
CUTE AND CHARMING BOY GENIUS
KO-CHAN INCREDIBLY FAT?
MUTUAL

PLEASE LET ME SHOULDER THE MIKOSHI, TOO!
新聞

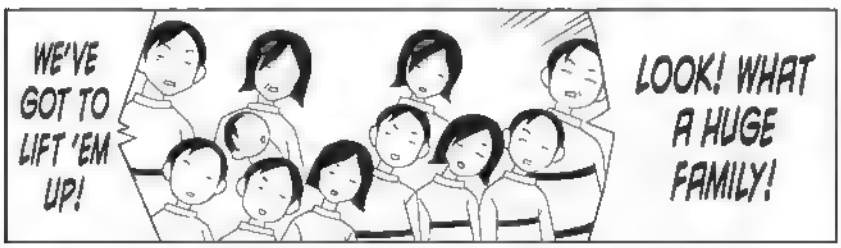
ME TOO!

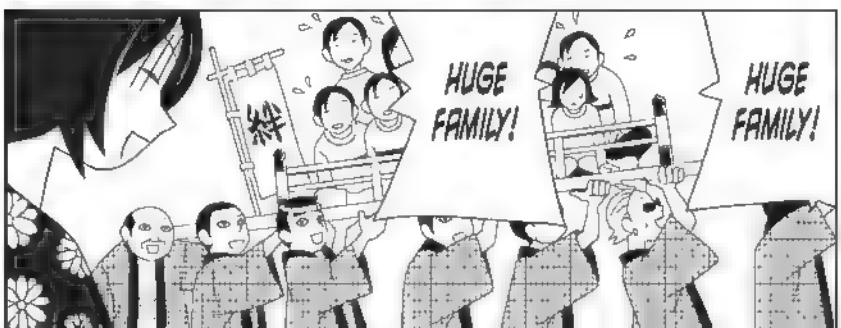
THE GENIUS BOY EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT!
ばーん
BAM
3.14159265358
CORRECT!!

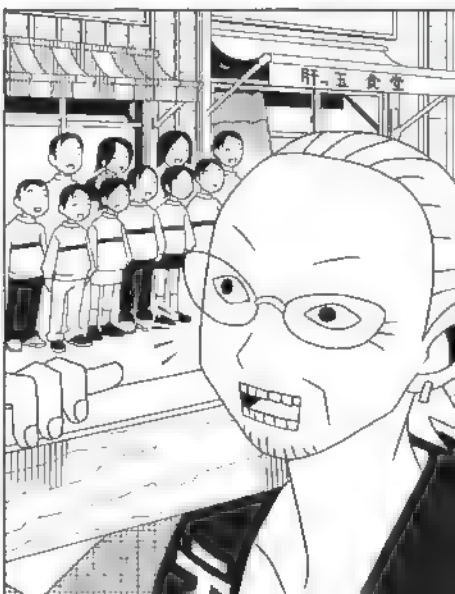
LET ME LIFT HIM UP, TOO!
テレビ支局

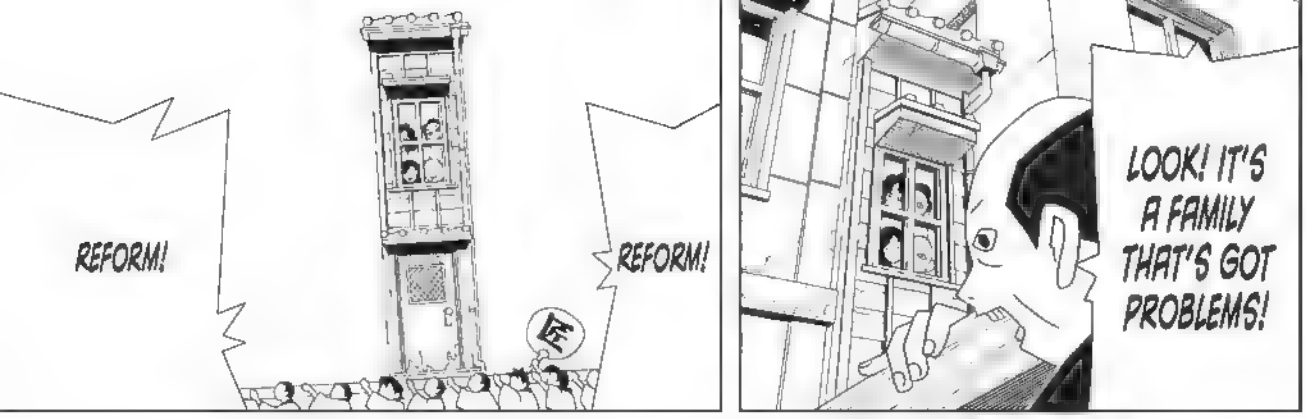
NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE!
LITTLE BOY!
GENIUS!
GENIUS!
.....

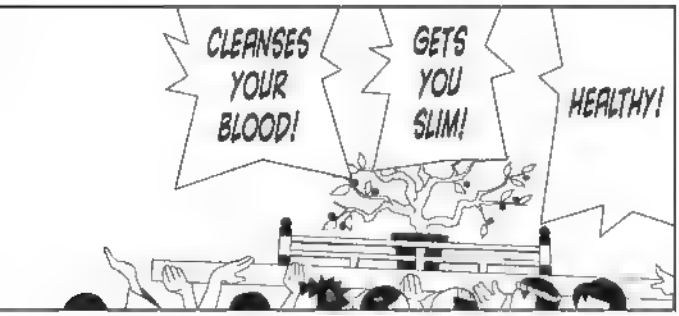
ばーん
BAM
PI PARADISE!
3.14
358
265
c/w PRINCE

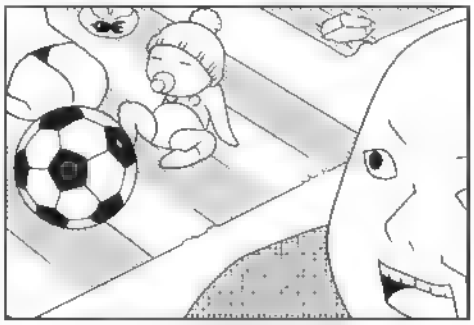

WE'VE GOT TO LIFT 'EM UP!
LOOK! WHAT A HUGE FAMILY!

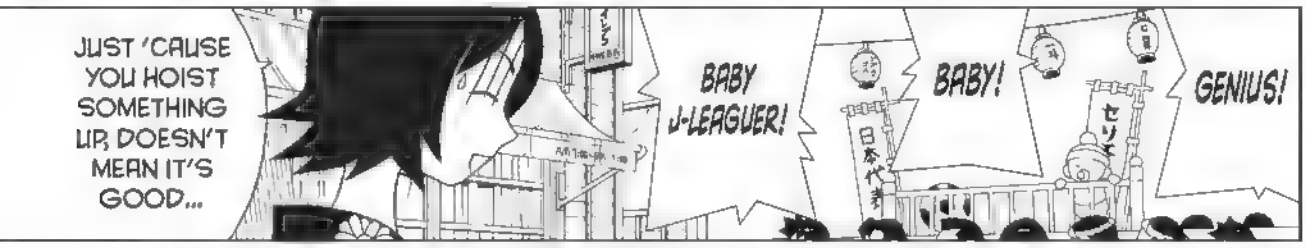

絆
HUGE FAMILY!
HUGE FAMILY!


肝っ玉食堂

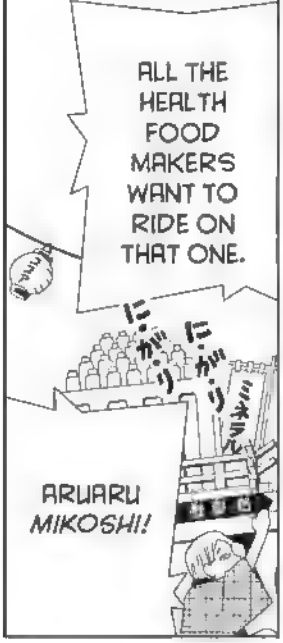


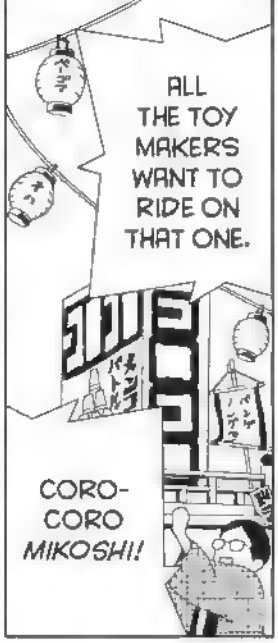






- THE KOIZUMI REFORMS
- THE PIANO MAN • SIDEREAL ASTROLOGY
- THE YOUNGEST AWARD RECIPIENT
- SEAKAGOKE SPIDER
- "MINUS ION" DEVICES
- FLAT 3 • NANIWA'S SYMPATHETIC POLICE BOX
- DEPARTMENT BASEMENT WARS • RAMEN WARS
- KOREAN WAVE
- HILLS ZOKU
- FUNNY RELIGIOUS GROUPS • AGARICUS
- SUICUP • COSMETICS WITH URIC ACID
- CAT-PROOF PLASTIC BOTTLES
- ODAIBA • SHIODOME • NOSTRADAMUS


ALL THE HEALTH FOOD MAKERS WANT TO RIDE ON THAT ONE.
ARUARU MIKOSHI!


ALL THE TOY MAKERS WANT TO RIDE ON THAT ONE.
CORO-CORO MIKOSHI!

ALL THE CRUMBLING IDOLS WANT TO RIDE ON THAT ONE.
AVEX MIKOSHI!

THOSE MIKOSHI OVER THERE ARE ONES THAT EVERYONE WANTS TO GET ON.

LOOKS LIKE THAT ONE'S GETTING WORN OUT.
THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER MIKOSHI THAT PEOPLE WANT TO RIDE ON.

HOW AWFUL!
IT'S JUST ABOUT GETTING THE AVERAGE MAN TO OBEY AND DANCE!

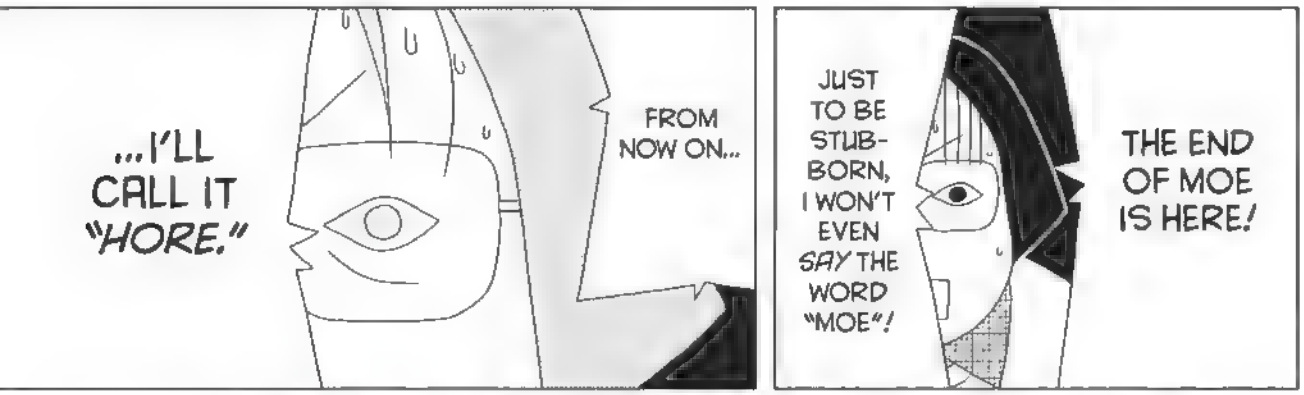
YES, NOT A ONE.
THERE'S NO JAPANESE WHO WON'T DANCE WHEN WE LIFT A MIKOSHI.

A-BOY!
OTAKU!
MOE BOOM!

THAT'S SO ANNOYING!
THEY'RE HOISTING THEM UP, CALLING IT "MOE BOOM"!

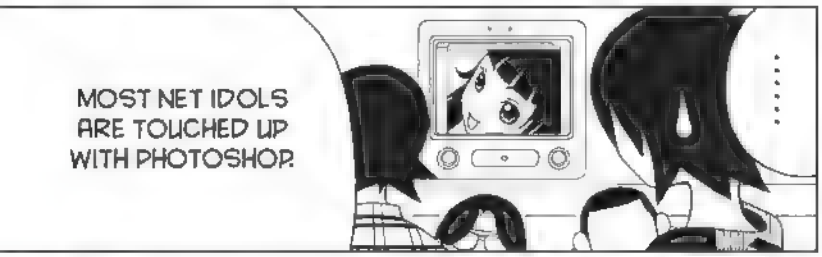
...VIOLATES THE MERCHANT'S LAWS OF RUMOR DISSEMINATION!
BEING SO FRANK ABOUT THEIR MOTIVES...

WILL THE GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE STOP LINING UP AT MAID CAFÉS!
きえりゃあああ
BEGONE!
WILL THE GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE STOP SAYING "MOE, MOE"!
THAT'S WATARU-KUN FROM MANSEIBASHI BRIDGE AREA. HE'S FROM THE CLASS NEXT DOOR.


...I'LL CALL IT "HORE."
FROM NOW ON...
JUST TO BE STUBBORN, I WON'T EVEN SAY THE WORD "MOE"!
THE END OF MOE IS HERE!

I DON'T THINK THAT WORD'LL GET POPULAR...
HORE-HORE, ISN'T IT?
HORE

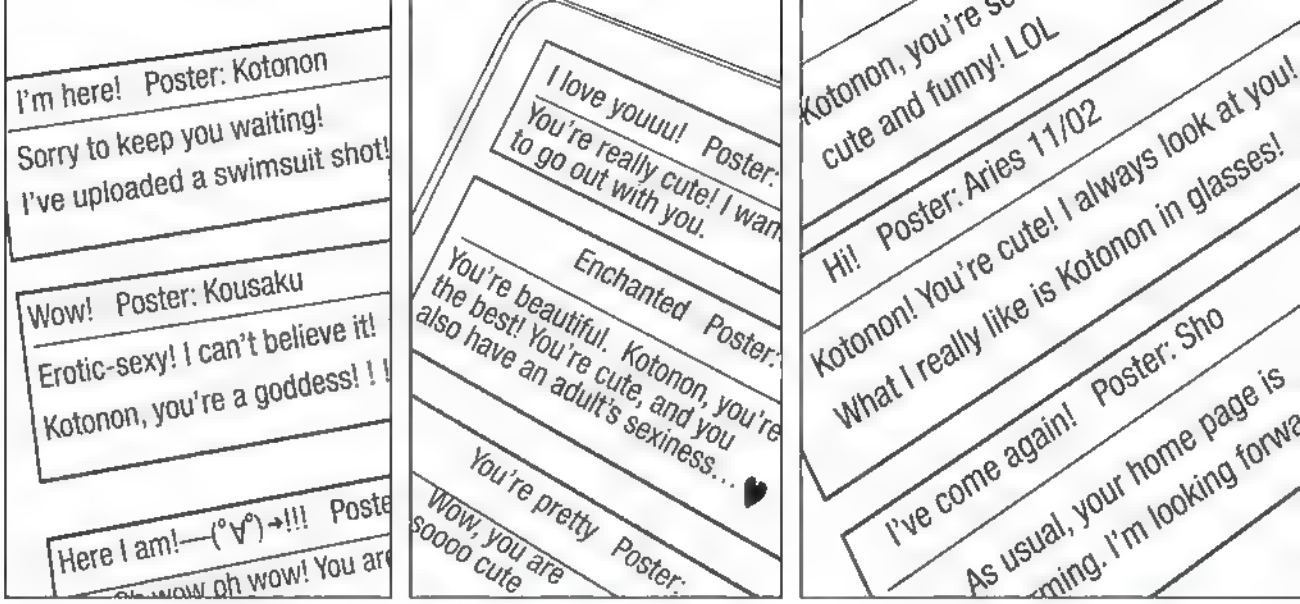
CUTE かわいい
CUTE かわいい
A GOOD EXAMPLE IS WITH NET IDOL MIKOSHI.
THERE'S ALSO PLENTY OF LOCAL MIKOSHI.
IT ISN'T JUST THE MAJOR MEDIA THAT PUTS THINGS ON A MIKOSHI.

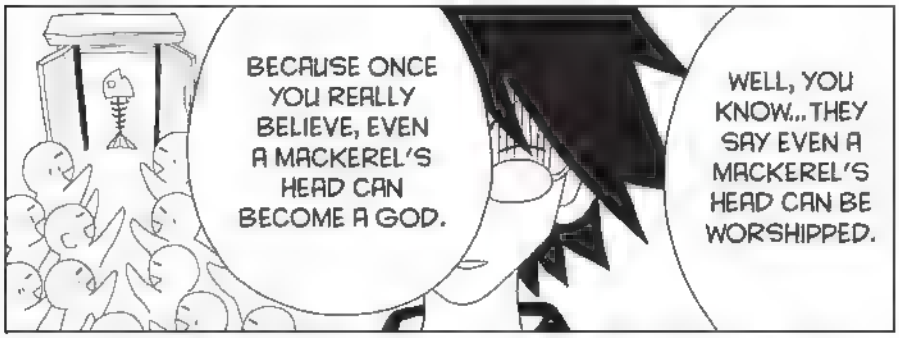

MOST NET IDOLS ARE TOUCHED UP WITH PHOTOSHOP.
.....

♪EVERYONE'S MESSAGEBOARD♪
TOP ABOUT BLOG PHOTO LINKs MAIL
Please write a little something okay?♪
No slanderous things please m(_ _)m
Let's obey the rules of netiquette and have fun!
Hi! Poster Lime-mint
Hello, Kotonon! You're the top maid-san. You're great

カチ
CLICK

WHAT?!
OH MY! THAT'S MY HOME PAGE THEY'RE LOOKING AT.


I'm here! Poster: Kotonon
Sorry to keep you waiting!
I've uploaded a swimsuit shot!
Wow! Poster: Kousaku
Erotic-sexy! I can't believe it!
Kotonon, you're a goddess! ! !
Here I am!—(°∀°)→!!! Poste
I love youuu! Poster:
You're really cute! I wan
to go out with you.
Enchanted Poster:
You're beautiful. Kotonon, you're
the best! You're cute, and you
also have an adult's sexiness...
You're pretty Poster:
Wow, you are
soooo cute
Kotonon, you're
cute and funny! LOL
Hi! Poster: Aries 11/02
Kotonon! You're cute! I always look at you!
What I really like is Kotonon in glasses!
I've come again! Poster: Sho
As usual, your home page is
ming. I'm looking forwa


BECAUSE ONCE YOU REALLY BELIEVE, EVEN A MACKEREL'S HEAD CAN BECOME A GOD.
WELL, YOU KNOW... THEY SAY EVEN A MACKEREL'S HEAD CAN BE WORSHIPPED.

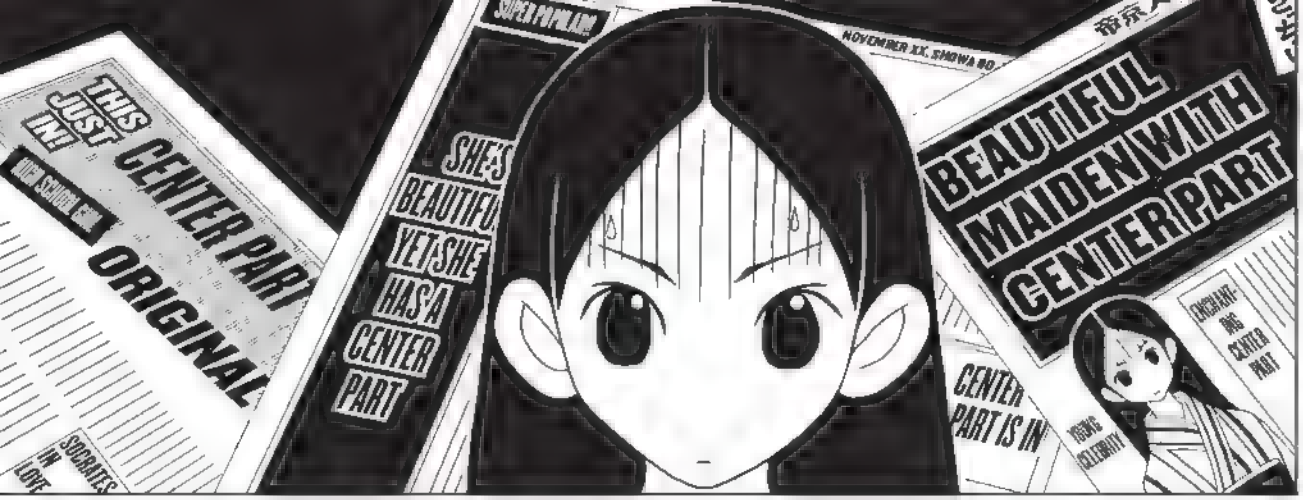
.....

IN THAT CASE, WE HAVE THE PERFECT PERSON.

WE NEED SOME-THING NEW TO HOIST UP!
DO YOU HAVE ANY-THING?

A BEAUTY WITH A CENTER PART!!

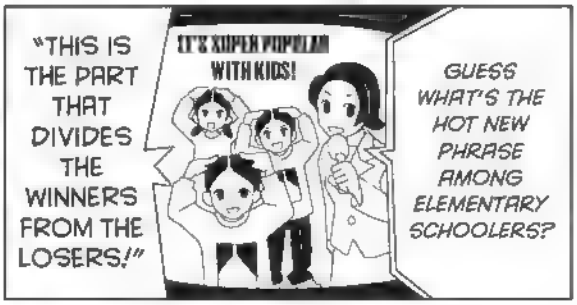
WHAT IS IT?
WHA...


THIS JUST IN!
CENTER PART
ORIGINAL
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL YET SHE HAS A CENTER PART
BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN WITH CENTER PART
CENTER PART IS IN

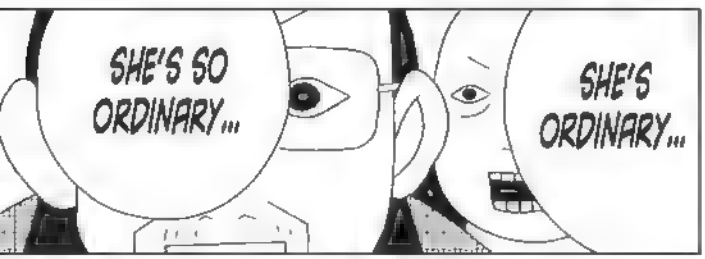
PART! PART!
WILL YOU PLEASE STOP?!
CENTER!
CENTER!

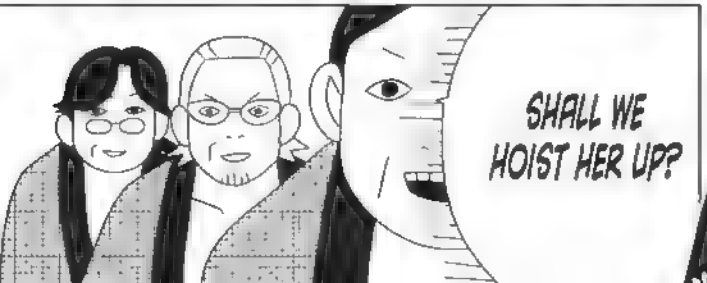
PARTY GOODS
CENTER PART WIG
IT'S PRECISE!

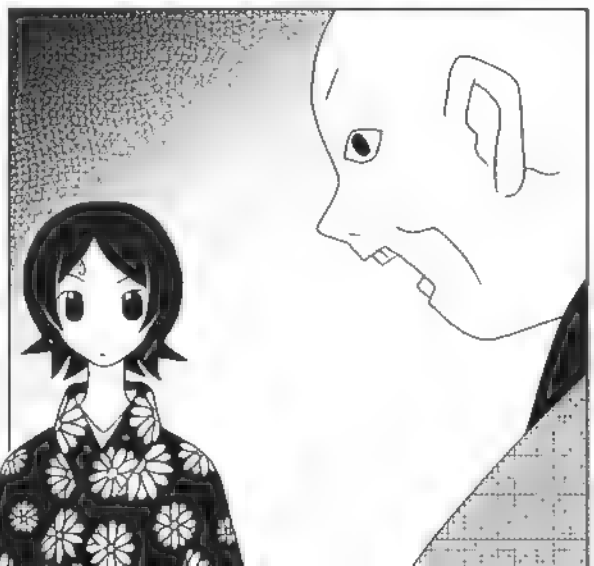
THE PART


"THIS IS THE PART THAT DIVIDES THE WINNERS FROM THE LOSERS!"
IT'S SUPER POPULAR WITH KIDS!
GUESS WHAT'S THE HOT NEW PHRASE AMONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOLERS?

ALL RIGHT! WHAT SHOULD WE LIFT UP NOW?
THERE'S NOTHING THAT WE CAN'T LIFT UP!
THIS IS CRAZY!


SHE'S SO ORDINARY...
SHE'S ORDINARY...


SHALL WE HOIST HER UP?

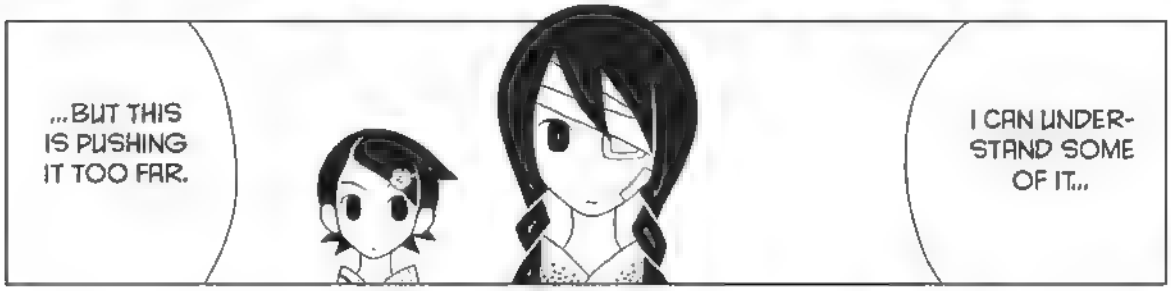


ORDINARY
ORDINARY!
ORDINARY
ORDINARY!
ORDINARY!

THAT ORDINARY GIRL IS NOW A BAND.
OTAKU-GIRL
MUSIC CATALOGUE
ORDINARY MAID-TAN
WIN/X360

Normal Girl
A GIRL JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS
NAMI HITOU
SHE'S NOT NUMBER ONE
SHE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE
ORDINARY

ORDINARY MAIDEN DISCOVERED!!!
EVEN HER BEAUTY IS ORDINARY!
GUYS GOING GAGA OVER HER ORDINARINESS!
THE ORDINARY GIRL I'VE NYONE'S TALKING ABOUT
Exclusive Interview
SHE'S REALLY ORDINARY!!!


...BUT THIS IS PUSHING IT TOO FAR.
I CAN UNDERSTAND SOME OF IT...

DON'T CALL ME ORDINARY.
EHH... NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

SO? AFTER ALL THIS PUBLICITY, WAS SHE A BIG HIT?
ORDINARY GIRL RECOMMENDS

EXCLUSIVE KOTONON INFO

3 6 3 6 4 6 1 HIT!

HN: KOTONON ← EMAIL ME HERE

SEX: MAIDEN

BIRTHDAY: THE DAY I MET YOU

BLOOD TYPE: RH +/- O

ADDRESS: IN YOUR HEART

BIRTHPLACE: HOKKAIDO

PROFESSION: APPRENTICE NET IDOL

HEIGHT: 158 CM (ABOUT 5'2")

WEIGHT: AS MUCH AS THREE CRATES OF APPLES

HOBBIES: ATTENDING CAT SHOWS

SPECIAL TALENT: NOTHING SPECIAL

CIGARETTES: ~~VIRGINIA SLIM LIGHTS~~

SKILLS: LICENSED FOR PHOTOSHOP

FAVORITE FOODS: VEGGIES

FOODS I DISLIKE: MEAT...I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT

WHERE I WANT TO TRAVEL: NEW CALEDONIA ISLAND

ROUTE YOU TRAVEL THE MOST: OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

FIRST CD I BOUGHT: PLAYBACK PART 2

IF I WERE REINCARNATED: I'D BE AN EVEN CUTER ME

ENTRY JUST FOR KOTO:

THERE'LL BE MUSIC FROM THE NEXT PAGE ON.
BE CAREFUL WITH THE VOLUME, OKAY?

CHAPTER 27

FIND THE SEVEN MISTAKES
IT'S ALWAYS THE LAST ONE THAT YOU CAN'T FIND.
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE MISTAKE?
IF YOU HAVE FREE TIME TO DO SUCH THINGS...

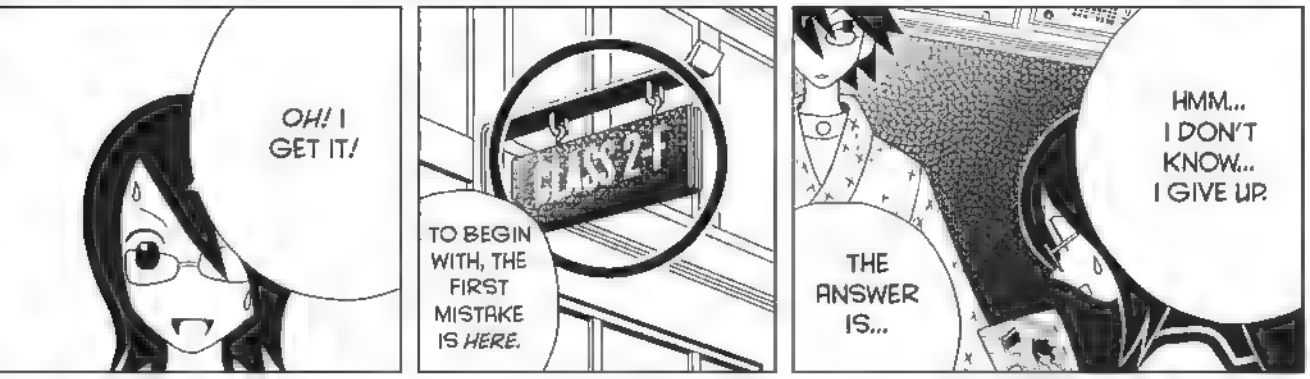
WHY DON'T YOU LOOK FOR MISTAKES IN HUMANS INSTEAD?
CLASS ROSTER
HUMANS ARE FULL OF MISTAKES.
• WHEN I BOUGHT A BETA
• WHEN I BOUGHT A 3DO
• WHEN I BEFRIENDED THAT JERK
• WHEN I BECAME A MEMBER OF THAT CIRCLE
STRIKE
FIGHT
TRY AS HARD AS YOU LIKE, BUT YOU STILL MAKE MISTAKES.

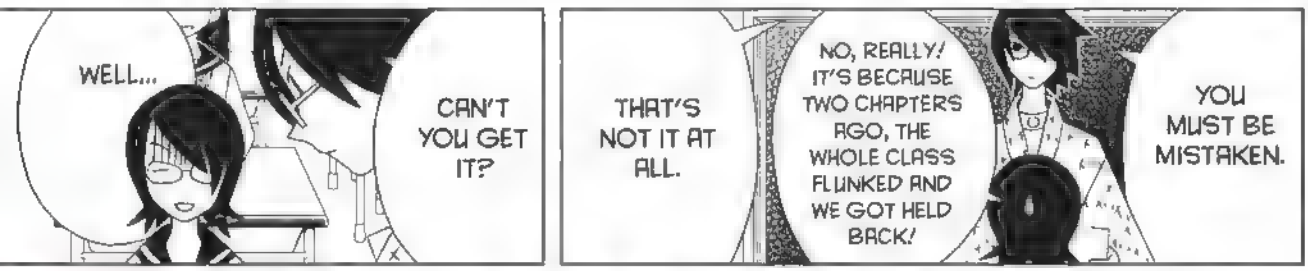
SILENCE
しーん
UH?
EACH OF YOU, COME UP WITH SEVEN MISTAKES IN YOUR LIFE!
TO NAME JUST SEVEN WOULD BE TOTALLY INSUFFICIENT.
I GUESS LIFE IS FULL OF MISTAKES, ISN'T IT.
OH... SORRY.
YOUR SENSEI HAS JUST MADE A MISTAKE BY ASKING THIS QUESTION!
ちいば
I'LL CORRECT IT!
PLEASE EXCUSE MY MISTAKEN QUESTION!
ANOTHER MISTAKE HAS JUST BEEN ADDED TO MY LIFE!
THE REQUEST HASN'T CHANGED MUCH.
EACH OF YOU, COME UP WITH TEN MISTAKES IN YOUR LIFE.

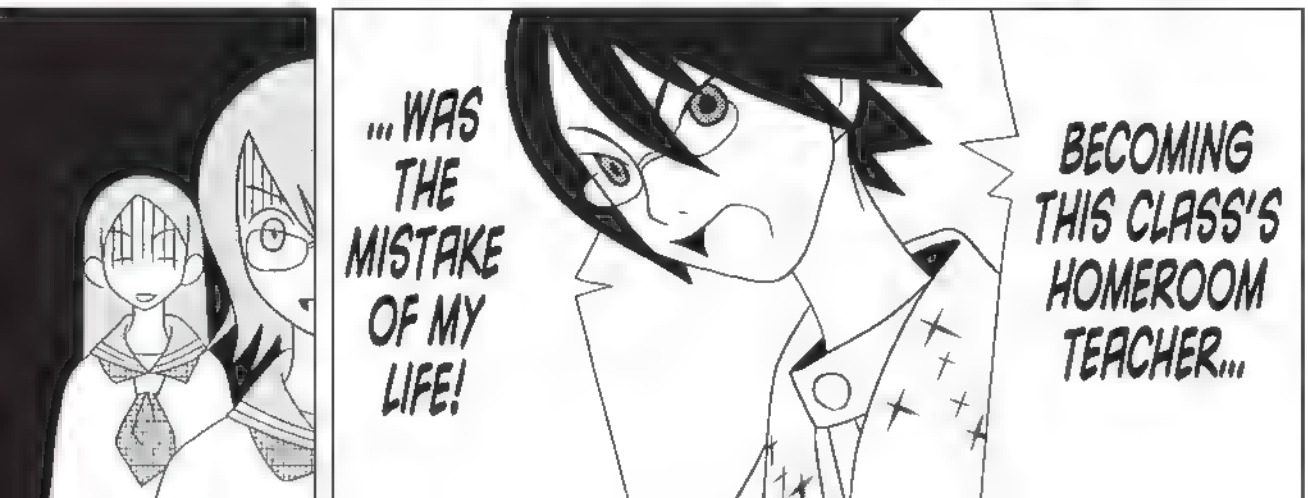
A FAMOUS MAN ONCE SAID...
"THERE ARE NO RIGHT ANSWERS IN LIFE."
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.
YOU JUST ASKED ME OUT OF THE BLUE, SO I CAN'T THINK OF ANY MISTAKES.
I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT.
IN OTHER WORDS, LIFE IS NOTHING BUT A SUCCESSION OF MISTAKES!
...MADE A MISTAKE (CHEATED ON HIS GIRLFRIEND).
WELL, LOOKS LIKE A PERSON WHO SAID, "THERE ARE NO MISTAKES"...
THERE ARE MANY.
BEFORE WE TELL YOU OUR MISTAKES, SENSEI, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE US SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF YOURS.
THAT'S THE FIRST AND THE BIGGEST MISTAKE!
THE FIRST IS THAT I WAS BORN INTO THIS WORLD!

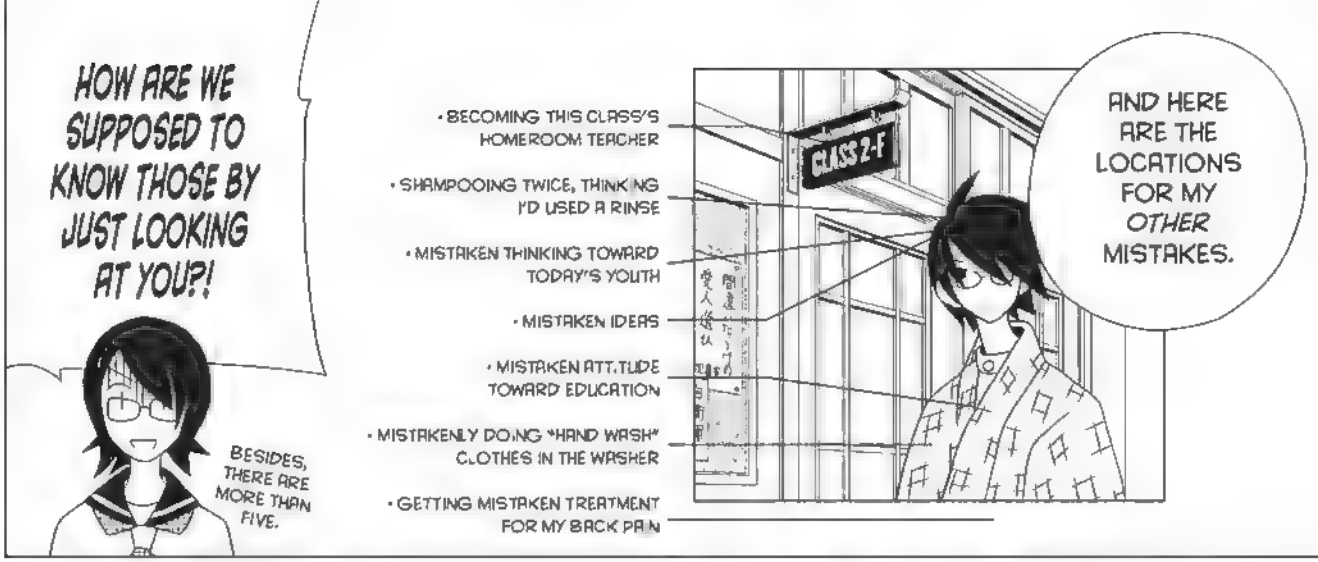
BUT THAT'S ALL ABOUT YOUR BIRTH.
AND IT WAS A MISTAKE TO BE BORN IN THIS ERA!
NEXT, IT WAS A MISTAKE TO BE BORN TO MY PARENTS!

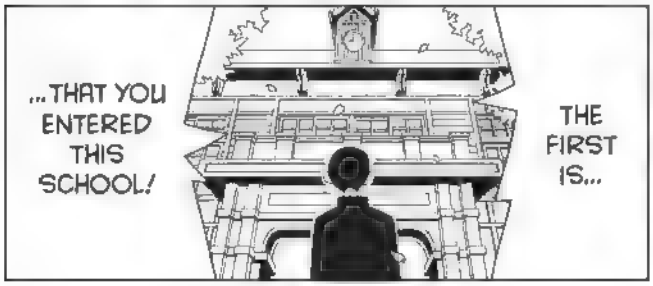
CLASS 2-F
IN THIS ROOM, THERE ARE FIVE MISTAKES!
• SQUANDERING ALL MY SAVINGS BEFORE JULY 1999
• PAYING FOR NHK
• BUYING A VHD
• BUYING ART BY CHRISTIAN RIESE LASSEN
• TAKING A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE IN KARATE
BUT BESIDES THAT, I'VE MADE ALL KINDS OF MISTAKES!


OH! I GET IT!
CLASS 2-F
TO BEGIN WITH, THE FIRST MISTAKE IS HERE.
HMM... I DON'T KNOW... I GIVE UP.
THE ANSWER IS...


WELL...
CAN'T YOU GET IT?
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.
NO, REALLY! IT'S BECAUSE TWO CHAPTERS AGO, THE WHOLE CLASS FLUNKED AND WE GOT HELD BACK!
YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN.

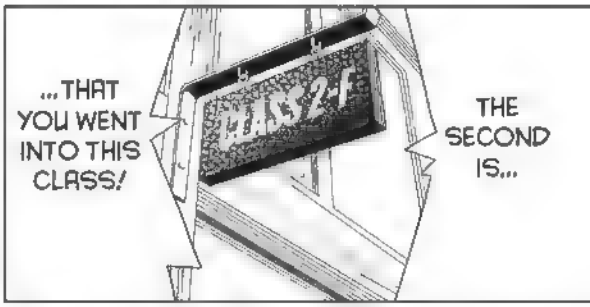

...WAS THE MISTAKE OF MY LIFE!
BECOMING THIS CLASS'S HOMEROOM TEACHER...


HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO KNOW THOSE BY JUST LOOKING AT YOU?!
BESIDES, THERE ARE MORE THAN FIVE.
• BECOMING THIS CLASS'S HOMEROOM TEACHER
• SHAMPOOING TWICE, THINKING I'D USED A RINSE
• MISTAKEN THINKING TOWARD TODAY'S YOUTH
• MISTAKEN IDEAS
• MISTAKEN ATTITUDE TOWARD EDUCATION
• MISTAKENLY DOING "HAND WASH" CLOTHES IN THE WASHER
• GETTING MISTAKEN TREATMENT FOR MY BACK PAIN
CLASS 2-F
AND HERE ARE THE LOCATIONS FOR MY OTHER MISTAKES.


...THAT YOU ENTERED THIS SCHOOL!
THE FIRST IS...

IF I WERE TO LIST THE MISTAKES THAT THE ENTIRE CLASS HAS IN COMMON...

...THAT I'M IN CHARGE!
AND THE THIRD IS...


...THAT YOU WENT INTO THIS CLASS!
THE SECOND IS...

...AND THIS IS A BATTLE OF MISTAKES?
SO, WE'RE ALL MISTAKE MAKERS...

...YOU MIGHT SAY THAT WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT.
BUT, IN MY OPINION, SINCE IT'S A MISTAKE THAT YOU'RE IN THIS CLASS...

...IT'S A BATTLE OF MISTAKES.
IN THIS WORLD, WHEREVER YOU LOOK...

OH, SORRY.
B-BUT I WAS ABOUT TO SAY THAT.
GAHH

- LANDLORD AND RENTER
- EDITOR AND A BUDDING WRITER
- USERS AND THE SUPPORT CENTER
- FIORENTINA AND NAKATA
- SAYAKA AND SEIKO
- NUCLEIC ACID AND YOUR WIFE
- FW WHO RUNS INTO A SPACE AND MF WHO PASSES WITH HIS FOOT
- NHK AND KAORU SUGITA
- KOIZUMI AND MAKIKO
- ODA NOBUNAGA AND AKECHI MITSUHIDE
- FUJI AND LIVE DOOR
- REINHARD AND REUENTHAL
- TEMPURA AND ICE WATER
- DREAMS AND REALITY

IT'S THE HEISEI WAR OF MISTAKES!

IT WAS A MISTAKE TO GO OUT WITH SUCH A GUY!

IT WAS A MISTAKE TO GO OUT WITH SUCH A WOMAN!

A MAN AND A WOMAN

IT WAS A MISTAKE TO HIRE SUCH AN IDIOT!

IT WAS A MISTAKE TO WORK AT SUCH A PLACE!

STORE SUPER-VISOR AND PART-TIMER

I WANT ALL OF YOU TO RECALL THE MISTAKES IN YOUR LIFE.

OKAY, TIME TO GET BACK TO OUR ORIGINAL QUESTION.

UM, I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.

MIDDLE-AGED DIVORCE. BY THE TIME THEY KNEW THEY MADE A MISTAKE, IT WAS TOO LATE.

- PULLING THAT TAIL
- PULLING THAT TAIL
- HITTING MY DAD BY MISTAKE

LIZARD

CRESTED GEP

- BUYING THAT CELL PHONE MODEL
- DECIDING ON THAT PLAN
- TI MOVING INTO THAT HOUSE WHERE I ONLY GET TWO BARS

- GETTING DIRECT SUNLIGHT IN SUMMER
- EATING OILY FOODS
- IRREGULAR LIFESTYLE

- DRAWING THAT PAIRING
- DRAWING THAT PAIRING
- DRAWING THAT PAIRING

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FEELING DOWN AFTER REALIZING ALL YOUR MISTAKES.

どんより

GLOOM

...WAS NO MISTAKE.

FOR ME, COMING TO THIS COUNTRY...

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE CONVERSATION SO HEAVY?

BECAUSE, THAT'S ALL I HAD GOING FOR ME.

CAN YOU FIND THE MISTAKES?

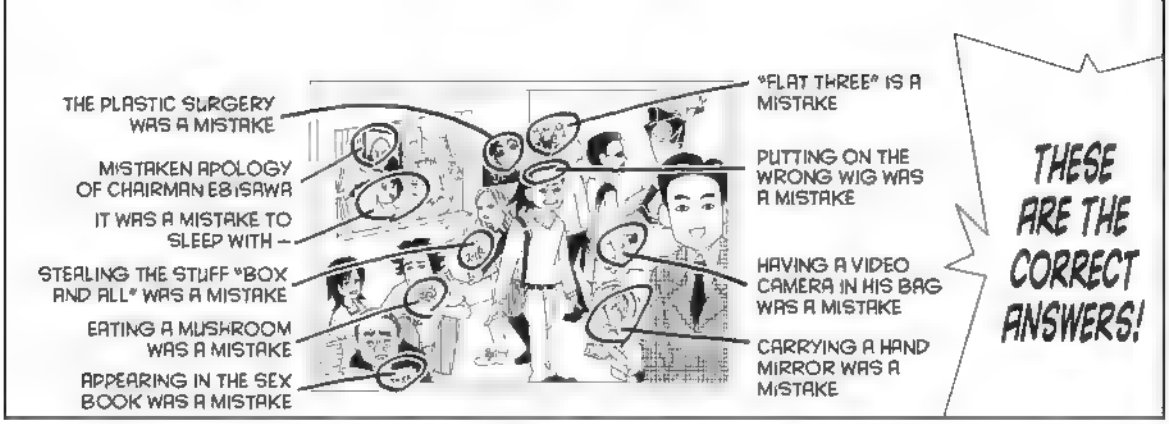
BY THE WAY, THIS IS A *CELEBRITY* "FIND THE MISTAKES" PICTURE.

SINCE THIS ISN'T A LEFT-LEANING WEEKLY PUBLICATION, PLEASE IGNORE ANY HISTORICAL ERRORS AND SO FORTH.

HMM...LET'S SEE...

SKWEEK

SKWEEK

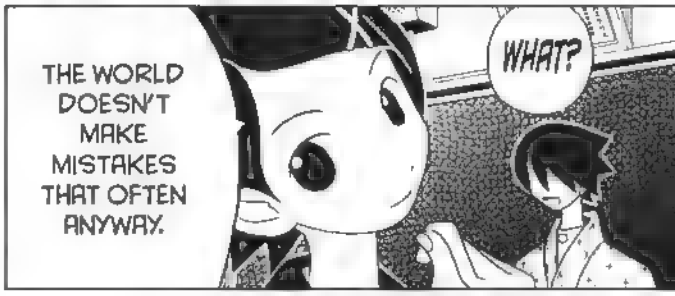

THE PLASTIC SURGERY WAS A MISTAKE
MISTAKEN APOLOGY OF CHAIRMAN EBISAWA
IT WAS A MISTAKE TO SLEEP WITH —
STEALING THE STUFF "BOX AND ALL" WAS A MISTAKE
EATING A MUSHROOM WAS A MISTAKE
APPEARING IN THE SEX BOOK WAS A MISTAKE
"FLAT THREE" IS A MISTAKE
PUTTING ON THE WRONG WIG WAS A MISTAKE
HAVING A VIDEO CAMERA IN HIS BAG WAS A MISTAKE
CARRYING A HAND MIRROR WAS A MISTAKE
THESE ARE THE CORRECT ANSWERS!

YOU JUST SAID, "CORRECT ANSWERS," DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT IS IT?

THE CORRECT ANSWERS...

IF THEY'RE CORRECT ANSWERS, THEY CAN'T BE MISTAKES, NOW CAN THEY?

OH, NOW I GET IT.
MAKING MISTAKES ABOUT MISTAKES WOULD BE PRETTY STRANGE, WOULDN'T IT?
ER... YOU'RE TWISTING THE MEANING...



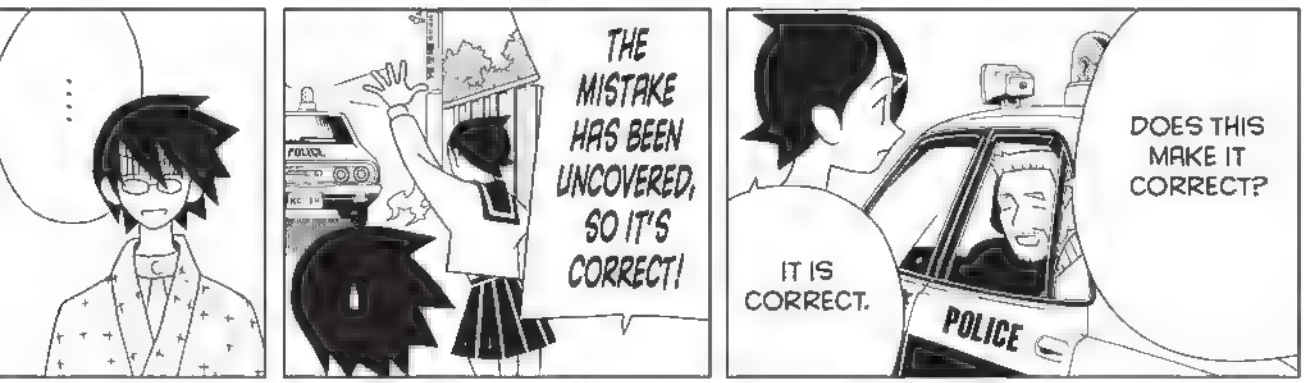
YOUR MISTAKES HAVE BEEN DETECTED, SO THEY ARE NO LONGER MISTAKES.
WHAT ABOUT THE 1.9 BILLION YEN I EMBEZZLED TO SUPPORT MY LOVERS?
SWARM
WHAT ABOUT THE NAME I CHOSE FOR THE CENTRAIR AIRPORT?
SWARM
WHAT ABOUT THE "RELAXED EDUCATION" THAT I ADVOCATED?

SHEESH... THERE SHE GOES AGAIN, INGRATIATING HERSELF INTO THE LITTLE OPENINGS IN THEIR HEARTS.
CORRECT.
SO, THEY WEREN'T MISTAKES AT ALL!

- PUTTING YOUR STAMP ON THE LOSING LOTTERY TICKET IN THE DRAFT
- THE OVERSEAS TRIP I WENT TO ON NEW YEAR'S WITH HINANO
- WHEN NAKATA ACCIDENTALLY PASSED TO THE ENEMY
- THE LANTERN I ACCIDENTALLY FILLED WITH GASOLINE INSTEAD OF LAMP OIL
- IGAWA WHO WAS PROMOTED AFTER THE FIRST MATCH
- MISTAKENLY BUYING *MONTHLY SHONEN JUMP* INSTEAD OF *WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP* WHEN A CHILD ASKED ME TO BUY IT
- AVEX'S APOLOGY ON MIXI REGARDING THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF NOMA NEKO
- KEN HIRAI'S OCCASIONAL HIGH-TENSION SONGS
- THE YOMIURI GIANTS' WEAKNESSES
- UNIQLO'S VEGETABLES
- THE PENSION SYSTEM BASED ON THE POPULATION SIZE BEFORE IT INCREASED
- THE CONCERN THAT BOUGHT CHOGIN BANK
- ISAHAYA BAY LAND RECLAMATION PROJECT
- DIGICUBE

SERIAL CRIMES
HEIGHT: 160~170 CM
BUILD: SLIM AGE: 40S
GRAVELLY VOICE
PRONOUNCED LISP
HAIRCUT
CREAM-COLORED SWEATER
CHARCOAL-COLORED PANTS
BOWLING SHOES
IF YOU RECOGNIZE THIS MAN, CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY!
IF IT IS NOT DISCOVERED, IT REMAINS A MISTAKE?
YES, THAT'S TRUE.
...

STUNNER IN MYSTERY CRIME
RIGHT BEFORE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS RAN OUT
SUSPECT TURNS HIMSELF IN
I WAS THE ONE WHO DID IT.


...
THE MISTAKE HAS BEEN UNCOVERED, SO IT'S CORRECT!
POLICE
IT IS CORRECT.
DOES THIS MAKE IT CORRECT?

THIS IS A THIN MANGA, SO DON'T TALK ABOUT DEEP THINGS.
I WONDER WHAT THAT GUY DID ANYWAY.
SO, THIS IS WHAT REPENTANCE IS ALL ABOUT.

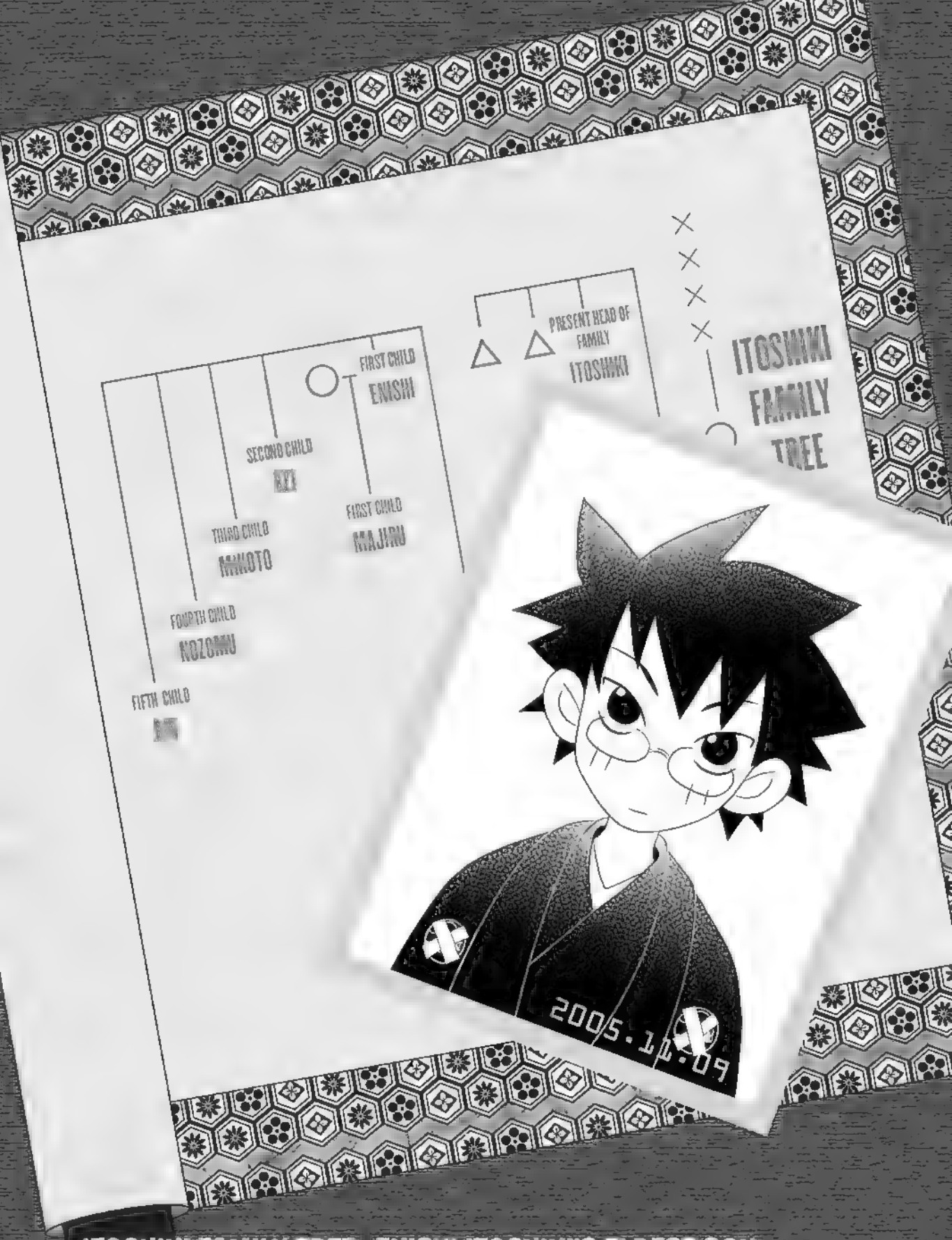
HEY, DAD.
HUH?

SORRY, I MADE A MISTAKE.
YOU LOOK SO MUCH LIKE MY DAD.
GOOD LORD, COULD IT BE...? A CHILD FROM A MISTAKE SENSEI MADE IN THE PAST...?

DON'T SAY SUCH DUMB THINGS!
SO, IT ISN'T YOUR CHILD AFTER ALL, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI?
STILL, THEY DO LOOK AN AWFUL LOT ALIKE.

WELL, TRUTHFULLY, IT'S NOZOMU ITOSHIKI...
HEY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
"ZETSU-BOU"...?

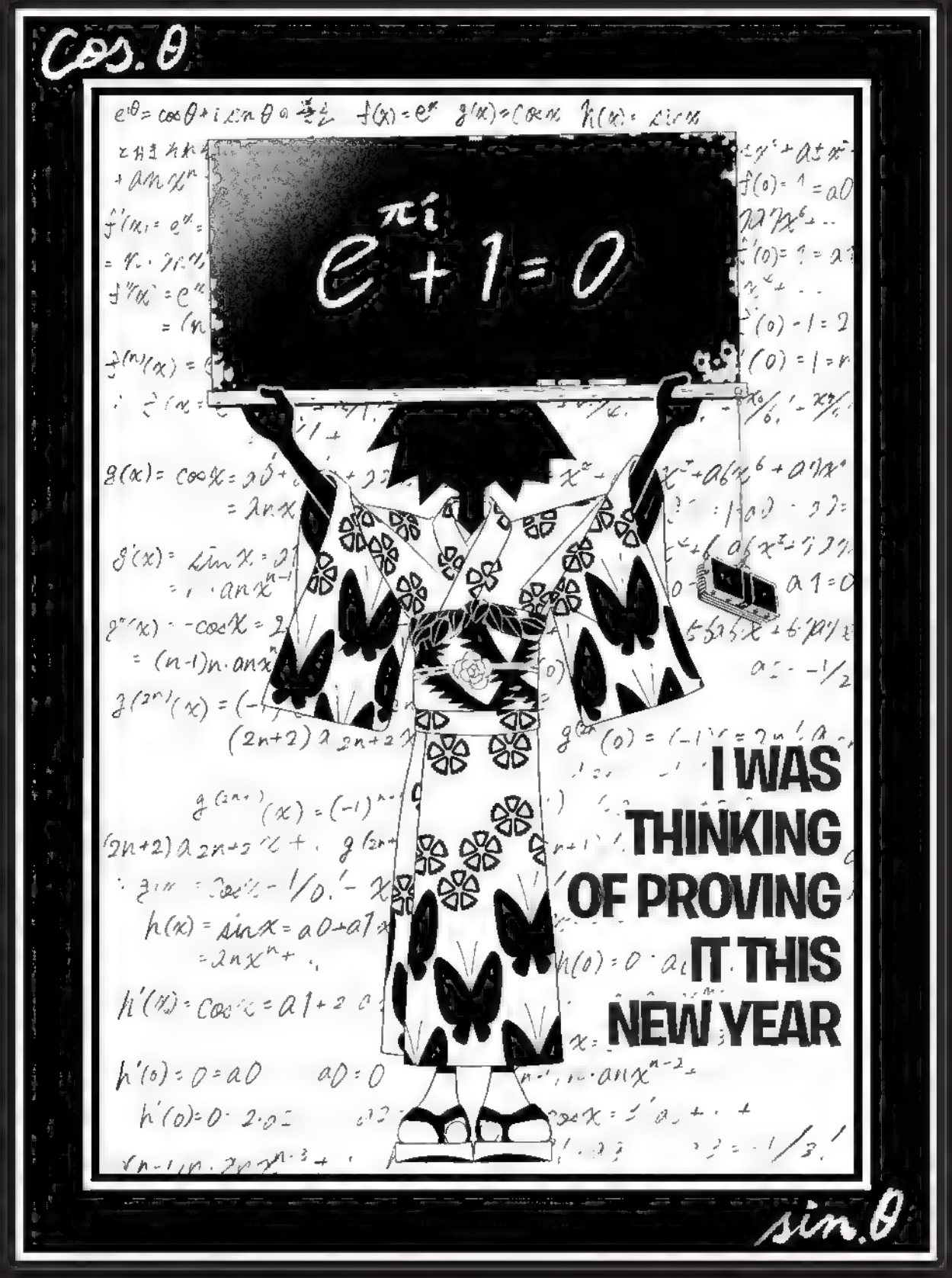
DOES THIS MAKE YOU "ZEKKO-CHAN"?
I'LL BE STAYING WITH YOU FOR A WHILE, UNCLE...
YOU'RE MY BROTHER ENISHI'S SON?!
ENISHI
DAI
MAKOTO
KEI
ENISHI
MAJIMI
CORRECT.



ITOSHIKI FAMILY TREE- ENISHI ITOSHIKI'S ELDEST SON

MAJIRU ITOSHIKI

NOZOMU ITOSHIKI'S RESIDENT PARASITE



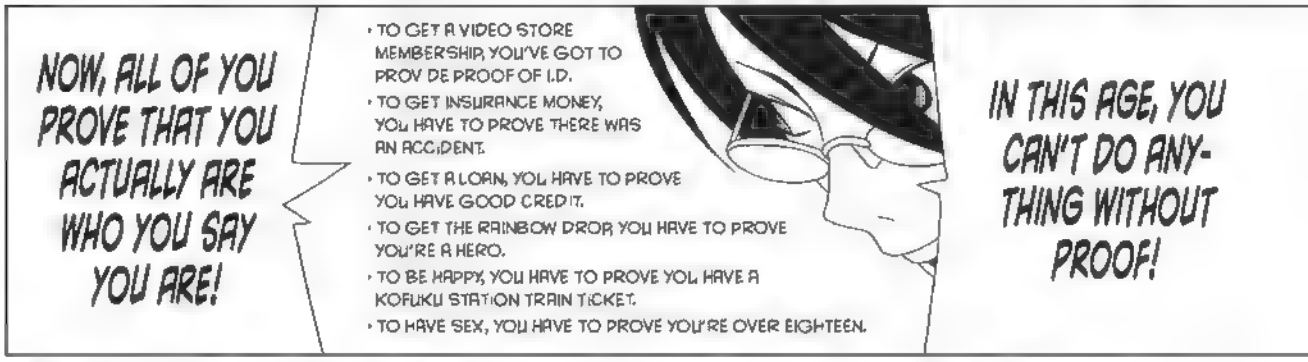
CHAPTER 28

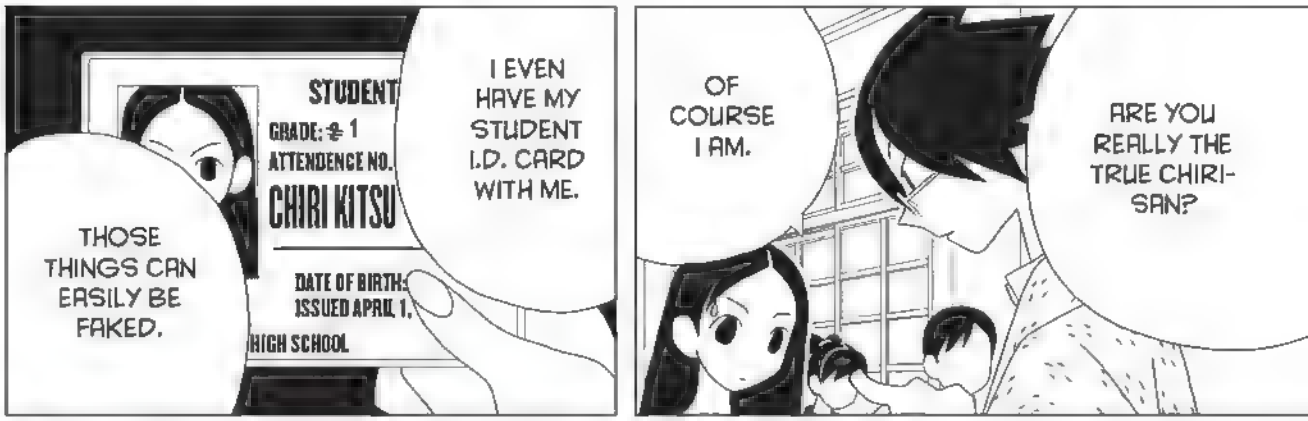
NOW, I WANT YOU TO PROVE THE NEXT THEORY...
ちらっ
PEEK
ARGGH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE CLASSROOM?
I BROUGHT HIM HERE.

IT'S CHILD ABUSE TO LEAVE A KID AT HOME ALONE.
A-A...
...ABUSE!
I'LL BE EXPOSED TO THE SCORN OF THE PUBLIC!
NEGLECT
CHILD ABUSE!!
SPORTS
SADISTIC TEACHER ABUSES CHILD
COMPLETE FAILURE AS A GUARDIAN
HE KEPT HIS DARK SECRET HIDDEN
WELL...
ABIRU-CHAN, YOU REALLY KNOW ABOUT ABUSE.
LET'S TAKE TURNS TAKING HIM HOME AND TAKING CARE OF HIM.
HE'S CUTE, SO LET'S KEEP HIM IN THE CLASS.
WHAT AM I, A RABBIT?!

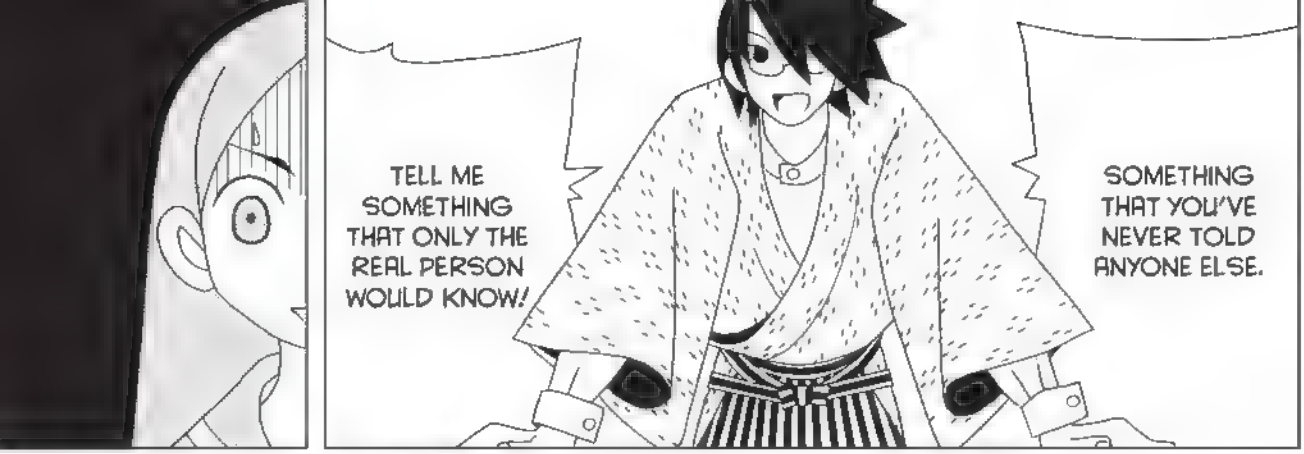
はっ
GASP
PROVE...
I WANT YOU TO PROVE THE NEXT THEORY.
NOW, LET'S CONTINUE WITH THE LESSON.
WELL, IF THEY'LL THINK I WAS A CHILD ABUSER, I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
PROVE THAT YOU'RE MY NEPHEW!
ARE YOU REALLY ENISHI-NIISAN'S CHILD?
WHAT, ARE YOU IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?
ON WHAT DAY, WHICH HOUR, WHAT MINUTE? HOW MANY TIMES DID THE EARTH REVOLVE THAT DAY?
SO, WHEN WERE YOU BORN?
JUST LOOK AT HIM, IT'S OBVIOUS.
GO ON, TELL ME I'VE GROWN.
SO IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU'VE AGED AN AWFUL LOT.
MAJIRU
BASICALLY, THE MAJIRU I KNOW LOOKS LIKE *THIS*.
I'LL GO LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE UNTIL I'M CONVINCED!
YOU CAN'T JUST TRUST THINGS IN THIS WORLD!

THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT YOU'RE USING A FAKE NAME, AND ONLY PRETENDING TO BE THE REAL PERSON WHO'S TAKING THE CLASS.
IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT MAJIRU!
IN FACT, I'M SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE TRUE IDENTITIES OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!
WELL... ACTUALLY, THERE'S AT LEAST ONE PERSON LIKE THAT...


NOW, ALL OF YOU PROVE THAT YOU ACTUALLY ARE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE!
• TO GET A VIDEO STORE MEMBERSHIP, YOU'VE GOT TO PROV DE PROOF OF I.D.
• TO GET INSURANCE MONEY, YOU HAVE TO PROVE THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT.
• TO GET A LOAN, YOU HAVE TO PROVE YOU HAVE GOOD CREDIT.
• TO GET THE RAINBOW DROP, YOU HAVE TO PROVE YOU'RE A HERO.
• TO BE HAPPY, YOU HAVE TO PROVE YOU HAVE A KOFUKU STATION TRAIN TICKET.
• TO HAVE SEX, YOU HAVE TO PROVE YOU'RE OVER EIGHTEEN.
IN THIS AGE, YOU CAN'T DO ANY-THING WITHOUT PROOF!


THOSE THINGS CAN EASILY BE FAKED.
STUDENT
GRADE: 1
ATTENDENCE NO.
CHIRI KITSU
DATE OF BIRTH:
ISSUED APRIL 1,
HIGH SCHOOL
I EVEN HAVE MY STUDENT I.D. CARD WITH ME.
OF COURSE I AM.
ARE YOU REALLY THE TRUE CHIRI-SAN?

TELL ME SOME-THING THAT ONLY YOU, ALONE, WOULD KNOW.


TELL ME SOMETHING THAT ONLY THE REAL PERSON WOULD KNOW!
SOMETHING THAT YOU'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE ELSE.

IF I'M NOT SURE IT'S REALLY YOU, THEN I CAN'T MARK YOU AS BEING PRESENT.
IF YOU CAN'T, THEN WE CAN'T ACCEPT YOU AS THAT PERSON.
NO WAY CAN I TELL YOU SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

SEEMS LIKE HIS THOUGHTS JUST TURNED INTO WORDS.
YEAH, TELL US HOW MANY FRECKLES YOU'VE GOT UNDER YOUR TITS!
YOUR TITS!

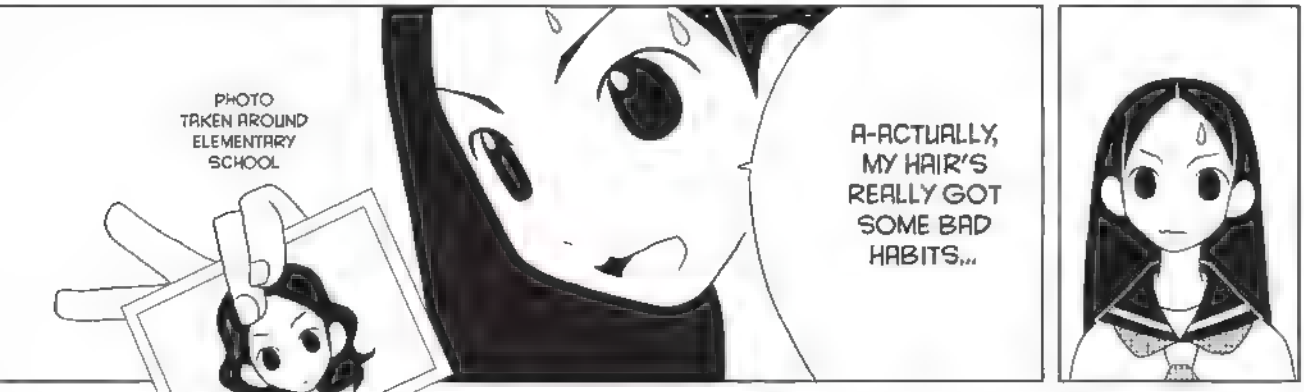


PHOTO TAKEN AROUND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
A-ACTUALLY, MY HAIR'S REALLY GOT SOME BAD HABITS...

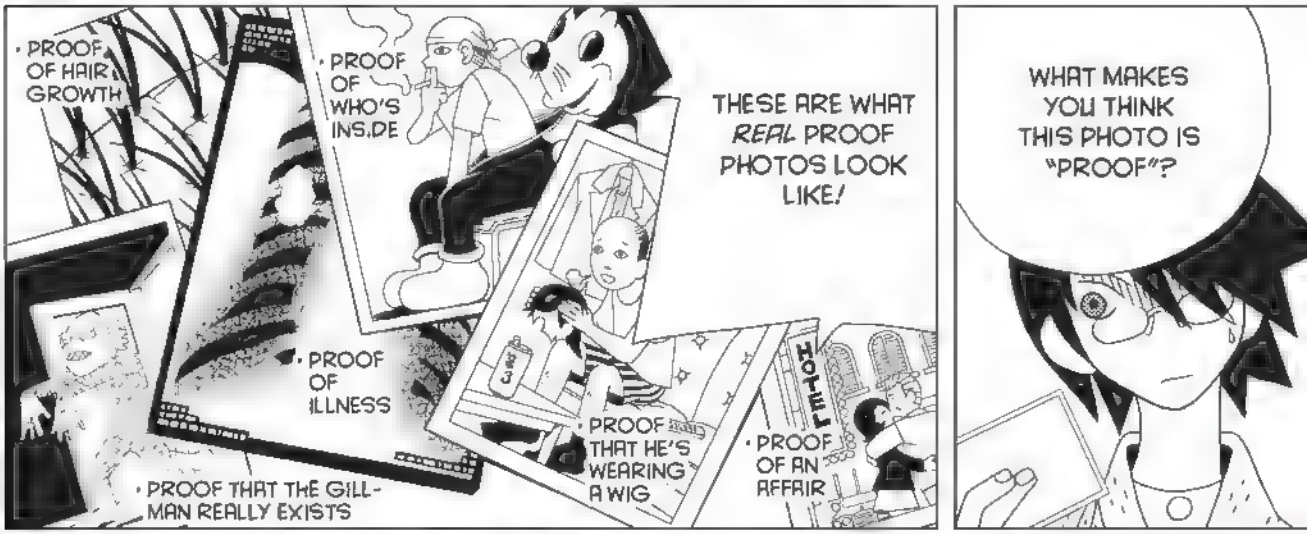
AHHH...THAT WAS FUNNY, SO I'LL ACCEPT YOU AS THE REAL CHIRI-SAN.
SNRKT
HEE! HEE! HEE! HEE
WILL YOU STOP THAT!

...I FRANTICALLY STRAIGHTEN IT OUT EVERY MORNING.
I DO A STRAIGHT-ENING PERM ONCE A MONTH AND...
CLAMP

I CAN'T.
ABIRU-SAN, NOW TELL US SOMETHING THAT ONLY THE REAL ABIRU-SAN WOULD KNOW.

I CAN'T TELL YOU 'CAUSE I'M WORRIED IT MIGHT GO AGAINST THE WASHINGTON NAVAL TREATY.
I'M SO SORRY FOR ASKING!
I GUESS THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD SAY THAT!
はっ
GASP

SEE? THERE'S MY PHOTO ON MY I.D. CARD.
YES, I AM.
HOW ABOUT YOU? ARE *YOU* THE REAL PERSON?

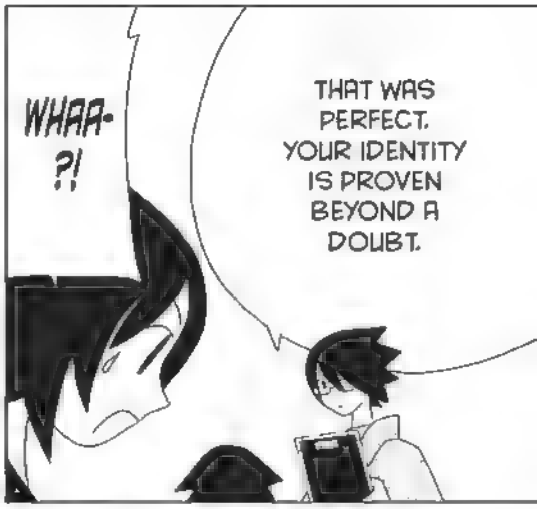

• PROOF OF HAIR GROWTH
• PROOF OF WHO'S INSIDE
• PROOF OF ILLNESS
• PROOF THAT THE GILL-MAN REALLY EXISTS
• PROOF THAT HE'S WEARING A WIG
• PROOF OF AN AFFAIR
HOTEL
THESE ARE WHAT *REAL* PROOF PHOTOS LOOK LIKE!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THIS PHOTO IS "PROOF"?

I FOUND IT AT *SHONEN MAGAZINE*'S EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.
WHERE'D YOU GET THIS GILL-MAN PHOTO?
THOSE PHOTOS ARE A BIT MUCH!

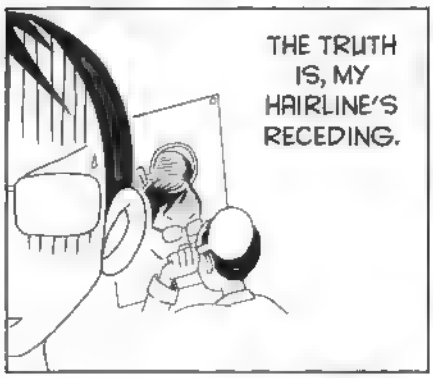
SO, BASED ON THAT, GO ON AND PROVE YOU'RE THE REAL PERSON.
IF YOU REALLY ARE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE, I'LL PRETTY MUCH BE ABLE TO GUESS YOUR ANSWER.
UMM...
SO, HITOU-SAN...I'M GOING TO ASK YOU A QUESTION.
BASICALLY, I DON'T REALLY THINK IT MATTERS MUCH, SINCE MOST KIDS HAVE TO GO TO CRAM SCHOOLS ON SATURDAY ANYWAY.
WHAT?
WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF GIVING KIDS TWO DAYS OFF PER WEEK?
DON'T CALL ME ORDINARY!
THAT'S 'CUZ SHE'S ORDINARY.
BUT THAT'S JUST WHAT ANYONE WOULD SAY!
I SAID, DON'T CALL ME ORDINARY!
SHE MUST BE THE REAL PERSON.
HMM. BUT HER WAY OF SPEAKING IS SO ORDINARY...
THEN YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION.
YUP, THAT ME!
ARE YOU THE REAL TARO SEKIUTSU-KUN?

YOUR FATHER'S NAME?
TERUZO.
YOUR BLOOD TYPE?
AB.
WHICH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL DID YOU GRADUATE FROM?
MESOPOTAMIA JUNIOR HIGH.
MAKI-ZONO-CHO, AIRA-GUN, KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE.
WHAT'S YOUR PERMANENT ADDRESS?

• PRETEND NG TO BE SOMEONE'S SON
IT'S ME, IT'S ME, ME
• PRETENDING TO BE THE SINGER OF "AMAIRO NO KAMI NO OTOME"
• PRETENDING TO BE A PILOT
• PRETENDING TO BE THE EMPEROR
WELL...AN IMPOSTOR WOULD PROBABLY BE BETTER AT PROVIDING PROOF, ANYWAY.


WHAA-?!
THAT WAS PERFECT. YOUR IDENTITY IS PROVEN BEYOND A DOUBT.

.....
PROVE YOU'RE REAL.
NOW, THE REST OF YOU SAY SOMETHING TO PROVE YOURSELVES.

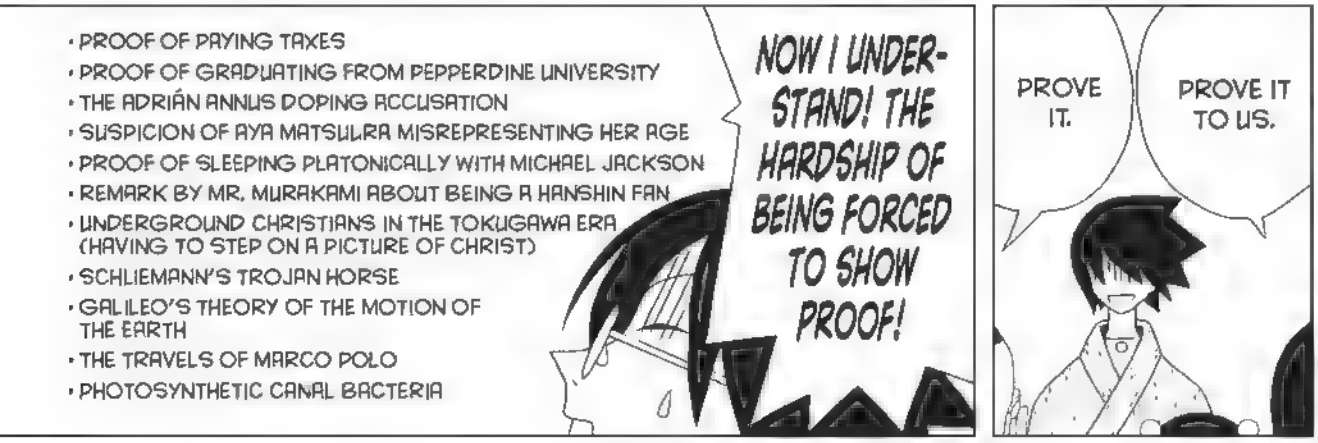

THE TRUTH IS, MY HAIRLINE'S RECEDING.

FIRST SON
SECOND SON
THIRD SON (TRUANT)
THE TRUTH IS, I HAVE THREE BROTHERS, AND THEY ALL GO TO ANIME SCHOOL.

THE TRUTH IS, I'VE NEVER TALKED OVER THE PHONE.
.....

THEN I CAN'T THINK OF YOU AS THE REAL PERSON.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TELL YOU!

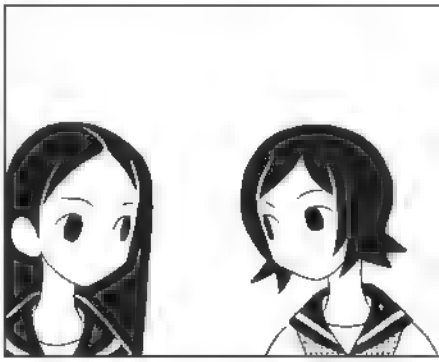
MAYBE YOU'RE GIVING CLASSES PRETENDING TO BE THE REAL TEACHER.
WHO ELSE WOULD I BE?
MAYBE YOU'RE A PERVERT WHO WANTS TO TALK TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.
NOW *YOU* PROVE *YOU'RE* THE REAL PERSON.
VERY WELL, SENSEI.


• PROOF OF PAYING TAXES
• PROOF OF GRADUATING FROM PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY
• THE ADRIÁN ANNUS DOPING ACCUSATION
• SUSPICION OF AYA MATSUURA MISREPRESENTING HER AGE
• PROOF OF SLEEPING PLATONICALLY WITH MICHAEL JACKSON
• REMARK BY MR. MURAKAMI ABOUT BEING A HANSHIN FAN
• UNDERGROUND CHRISTIANS IN THE TOKUGAWA ERA (HAVING TO STEP ON A PICTURE OF CHRIST)
• SCHLIEMANN'S TROJAN HORSE
• GALILEO'S THEORY OF THE MOTION OF THE EARTH
• THE TRAVELS OF MARCO POLO
• PHOTOSYNTHETIC CANAL BACTERIA
NOW I UNDERSTAND! THE HARDSHIP OF BEING FORCED TO SHOW PROOF!
PROVE IT.
PROVE IT TO US.

YOU SHOULDN'T SAY SUCH THINGS, SENSEI.
HUH?
I *CAN'T* PROVE THAT I AM REALLY ME!
BUT NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
I'LL PROVE THE PURITY OF MY BODY THROUGH DEATH!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO!

THERE'S NO WAY THAT YOU WOULD SAY SUCH A THING.
YOU'RE A SPLENDID PERSON, SENSEI.

GAHH
A TEACHER DOESN'T WEAR A HAKAMA TO CREATE CHARACTER!
THAT'S RIGHT, TEACHERS SHOULDN'T SAY SUCH THINGS.



TRUE, TRUE
YES, YES
HMM...VERY CONFUSING...

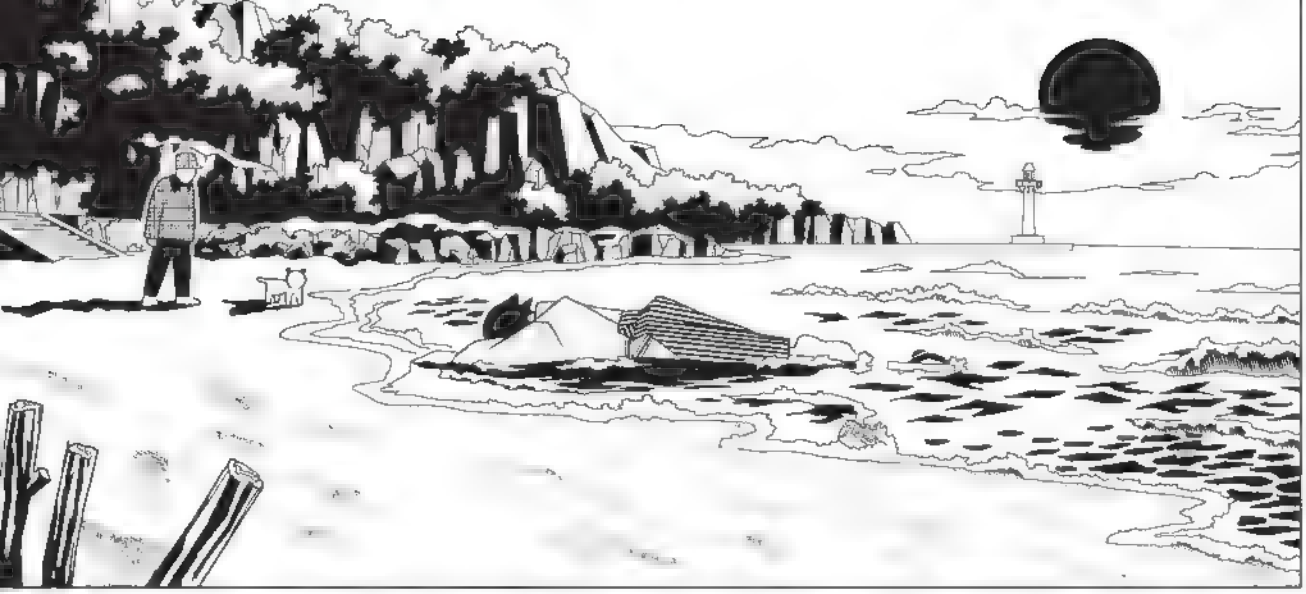
THEN WHAT KIND OF PERSON AM I SUPPOSED TO BE?!
YOUR HAIR'S TOO MUSSED UP, THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE A TEACHER!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN BE A TEACHER WITHOUT CAT EARS!

IT'S 180 DEGREES DIFFERENT FROM ME.
TH...THIS IS ME?

WHO AM I?
BUT THEN...

DASH
WHO AM I ANYWAY?

THIS IS OUR TEACHER, NOZUMU ITOSHIKI
AFTERNOON
ART: FUJIYOSHI



I WONDER... WHO *AM* I?
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, SON?

MY... WHOEVER HE IS, HE CAN CERTAINLY PLAY THE PIANO.
ポロロン
DORORON

WELL, IT'S A STRUGGLE, BUT I DO THE BEST I CAN.
IT'S SO STRAIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR HAIR HAS BAD HABITS.

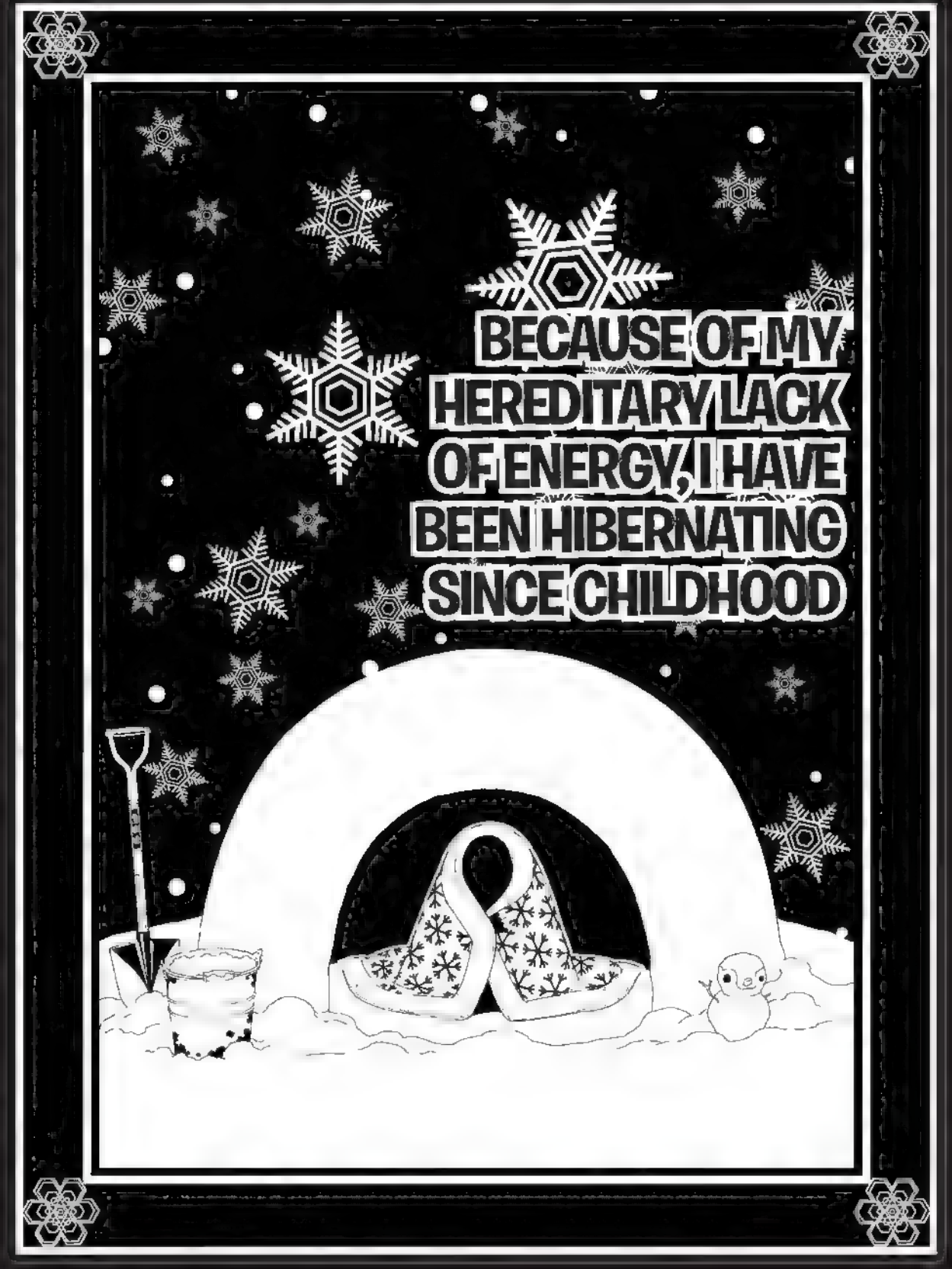
STROKE

H-HEY.../ I SET MY HAIR... IT'LL COME APART!
LET HIM TOUCH YOUR HAIR.

FOR A BOY HIS AGE, HE SEEMS TO HAVE A HAIR FETISH.
SNIFF
SNIFF

SPROING
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHO DREW THIS?
ぶる SHIVER
ぶる SHIVER
SEEMS LIKE HE'S DEVELOPED A TRAUMA ASSOCIATED WITH LONG, STRAIGHT HAIR...
I'M SCARED. I'M SCARED. HITOMI SHIMATANI'S SCARY.
あまいろ〜の
BRR
BRR
BRR

30いよ!!
THIS ONE MUG PROVES I'M ALIVE.
DON'T LOOK!
I-IT'S JUST "CHILDREN'S BEER"!


BECAUSE OF MY HEREDITARY LACK OF ENERGY, I HAVE BEEN HIBERNATING SINCE CHILDHOOD

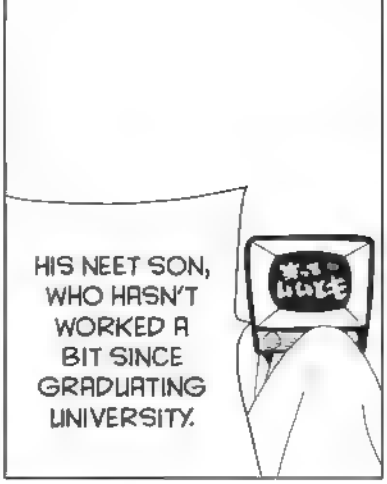
CHAPTER 29

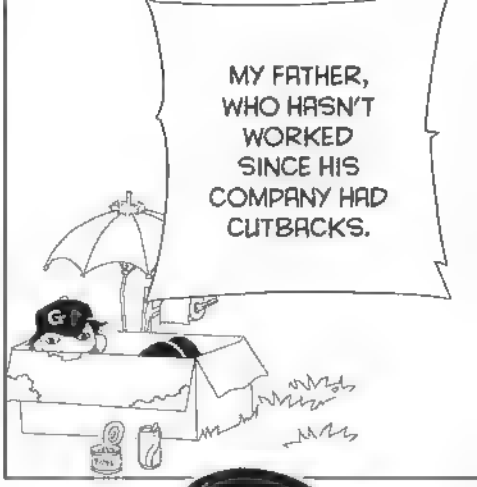
IT'S REALLY WINTER NOW.
IT'S NOT FAIR!
...AREN'T FAIR!
BEARS AND SNAKES...

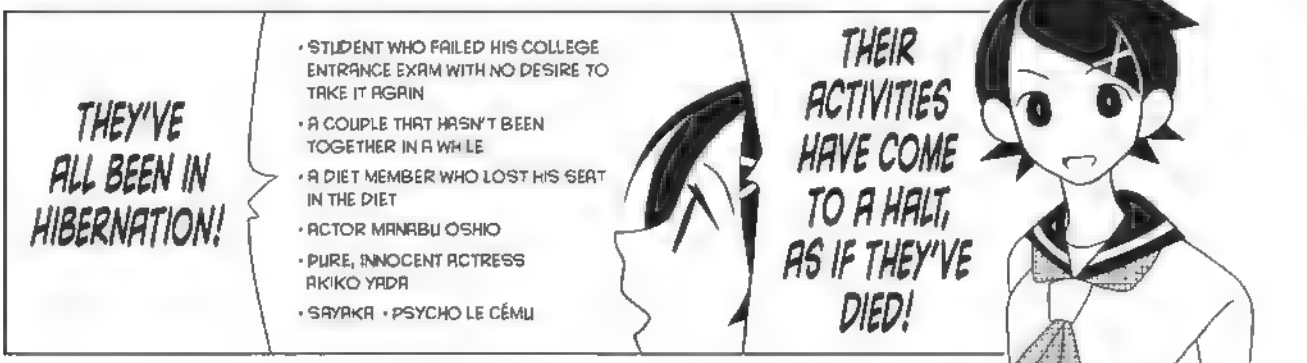
I WANT TO HIBERNATE, TOO!
HIBERNATE?
ISN'T IT A LITTLE WEIRD THAT SNAKES AND BEARS CAN DO IT, BUT HUMANS AREN'T ALLOWED TO?
IF I CAN'T HAVE *ETERNAL SLEEP*...
I CAN AT LEAST *HIBERNATE*, CAN'T I?

12
25
• WRITING TO AKASHIYA SANTA
• BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, THE OLD YEAR'S OUT
• FLIPPING THROUGH THE WHOLE DAILY CALENDAR AT ONCE?
• EATING DONBEE NOODLES ON THE NEW YEAR
AKASHIYA SANTA
IT'S BETTER TO SLEEP THROUGH IT.
BASICALLY, NOTHING GOOD HAPPENS AT THE END OF THE YEAR, AND AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR.
IT'S FROM EIGHT IN THE EVENING TILL SIX IN THE MORNING.
THE TIME ZONE FOR SLEEP IN HUMANS IS VERY PRECISE.
SLEEP
8 O'CLOCK...
HIBERNATION'S SOMETHING I CANNOT ALLOW!
KLATA
カタッ
TUBE?
BEARS, SNAKES, AND EVEN "TUBE" GETS TO DO IT! IT'S NOT FAIR!
NOPE. HUMANS SHOULD BE ABLE TO HIBERNATE, TOO!
HUMANS HIBERNATE, TOO.
THAT'S TRUE.
BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, HUMANS DO HIBERNATE.
FUTABA

MY SISTER, WHO'S NEVER KNOWN REAL LOVE WITH A GUY AFTER YEARS AND YEARS OF TRYING.


HIS NEET SON, WHO HASN'T WORKED A BIT SINCE GRADUATING UNIVERSITY.

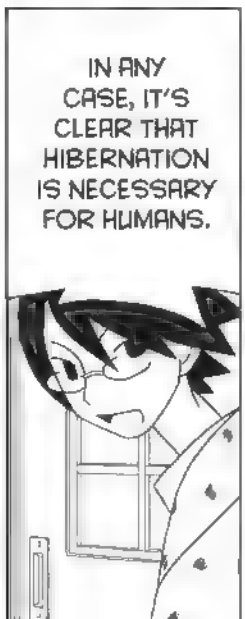

MY FATHER, WHO HASN'T WORKED SINCE HIS COMPANY HAD CUTBACKS.


THEY'VE ALL BEEN IN HIBERNATION!
• STUDENT WHO FAILED HIS COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM WITH NO DESIRE TO TAKE IT AGAIN
• A COUPLE THAT HASN'T BEEN TOGETHER IN A WHILE
• A DIET MEMBER WHO LOST HIS SEAT IN THE DIET
• ACTOR MANABU OSHIO
• PURE, INNOCENT ACTRESS AKIKO YADA
• SAYAKA • PSYCHO LE CÉMU
THEIR ACTIVITIES HAVE COME TO A HALT, AS IF THEY'VE DIED!

THEY'RE JUST HIBERNATING, RIGHT?
THEN, MY HAIR ROOTS HAVEN'T DIED...

I THINK THERE'S PLENTY THAT YOU WOULD WAKE UP FOR.
IT'S A TIME FOR PREPARING FOR A BEAUTIFUL AWAKENING AFTER THE PASSING OF A LONG WINTER.

WHERE CAN I FIND A GOOD PLACE?
I'VE GOT TO HIBERNATE FAST.


IN ANY CASE, IT'S CLEAR THAT HIBERNATION IS NECESSARY FOR HUMANS.

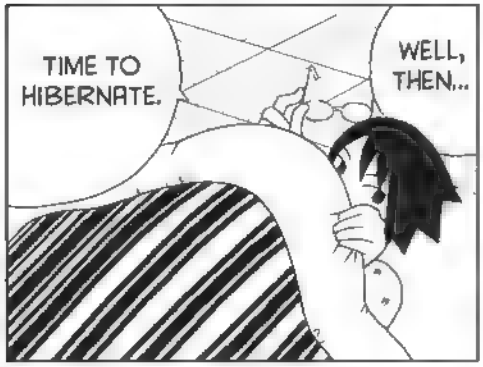
FSHAAA
AHH, THE SPRING!

KOMORI-CHAN'S HIBERNATING.
SHHH.
EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE TO HIBERNATE HERE!
ガラッ
SHFF
KOMORI
...HIBERNATING?
KOMORI-CHAN'S...
YOU THINK YOU SAID SOME-THING CLEVER?!
ガラッ
SHFF
A GENUINE FUYUKOMORI.
I WAS JUST DOZING.
NNHH...
STIR
ゴソッ
OOPS. SHE WOKE UP.
AH... SENSEI. WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HANH?
HANH?
DO YOU MIND IF I SLEEP HERE?

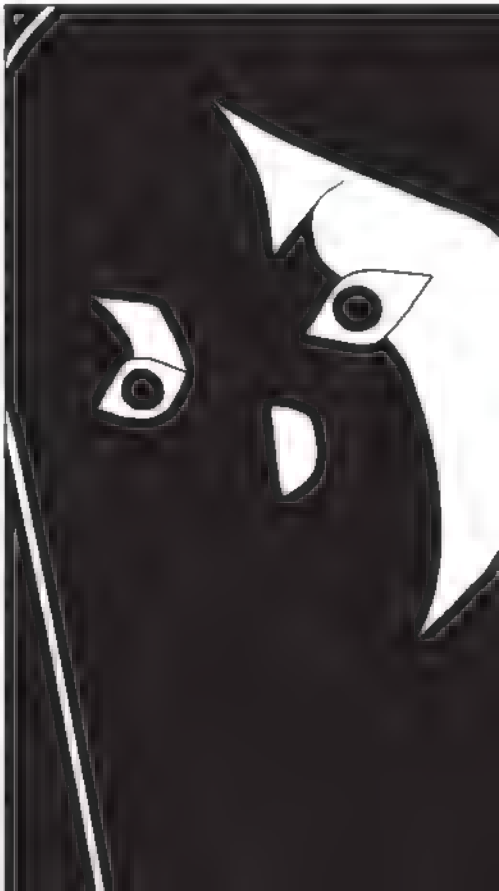
IT IS AN HONOR TO BE CONSIDERED.

N-NO... IT'S NOT A NO!
IS THAT A NO?


TIME TO HIBERNATE.
WELL, THEN...

YOU HAVE A GUEST FUTON?
I'LL PREPARE THE GUEST FUTON, OKAY?

YIKES!

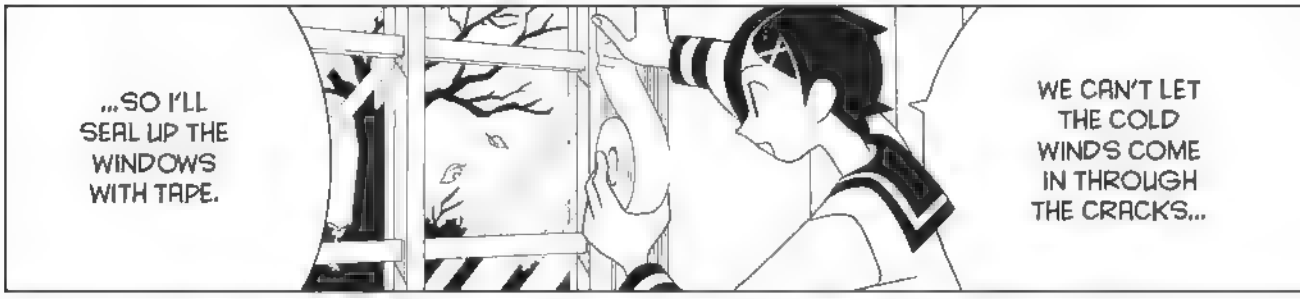


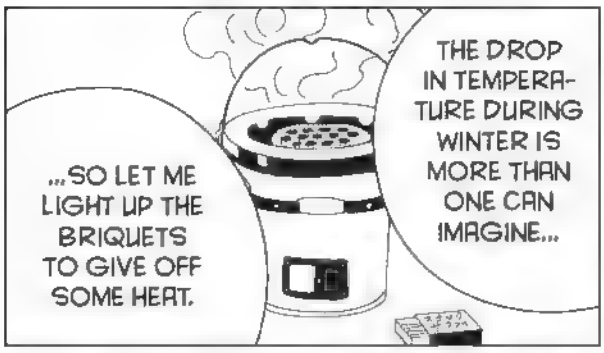
LET ME HIBERNATE, TOO.
ガラッ
SHFF

IT SEEMS THAT ONE DAY I'LL HAVE TO LET YOU KNOW PRECISELY WHAT I'M THINKING.
AGAIN, YOU DO THE SORT OF THING THAT GIVES A GIRL THE WRONG IDEA.
お
GRR
GRRRRR

IT'S NO GOOD TO BE AWAKE AT THE END OF THE YEAR AND AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR, ANYHOW!
I DIDN'T MAKE IT IN COMIKET.
I JUST DON'T CARE ANYMORE.
YOU TOO?! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?!
THERE'S NOT ONE GOOD THING THAT'LL COME FROM BEING AWAKE.
I DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND ANYMORE, AND IT'S TOO PATHETIC TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITHOUT ONE.
PLEASE LET ME HIBERNATE, TOO.
MY HAIR ROOTS ARE HIBERNATING, SO I, THE OWNER OF THOSE ROOTS, SHOULD HIBERNATE, TOO.
I'LL HIBERNATE, TOO.
MOST ANIMALS WITH TAILS ARE HIBERNATING, SO I'LL HIBERNATE, TOO.
ME TOO.
THEN LET'S ALL HIBERNATE IN UNISON.
WELL, IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...
LET US HIBERNATE!
ME TOO!
ME TOO!
MY! THIS IS JUST LIKE...
HEY, YOU GUYS! CUT IT OUT!

...MASS HIBERNATION!


...SO I'LL SEAL UP THE WINDOWS WITH TAPE.
WE CAN'T LET THE COLD WINDS COME IN THROUGH THE CRACKS...


...SO LET ME LIGHT UP THE BRIQUETS TO GIVE OFF SOME HEAT.
THE DROP IN TEMPERATURE DURING WINTER IS MORE THAN ONE CAN IMAGINE...

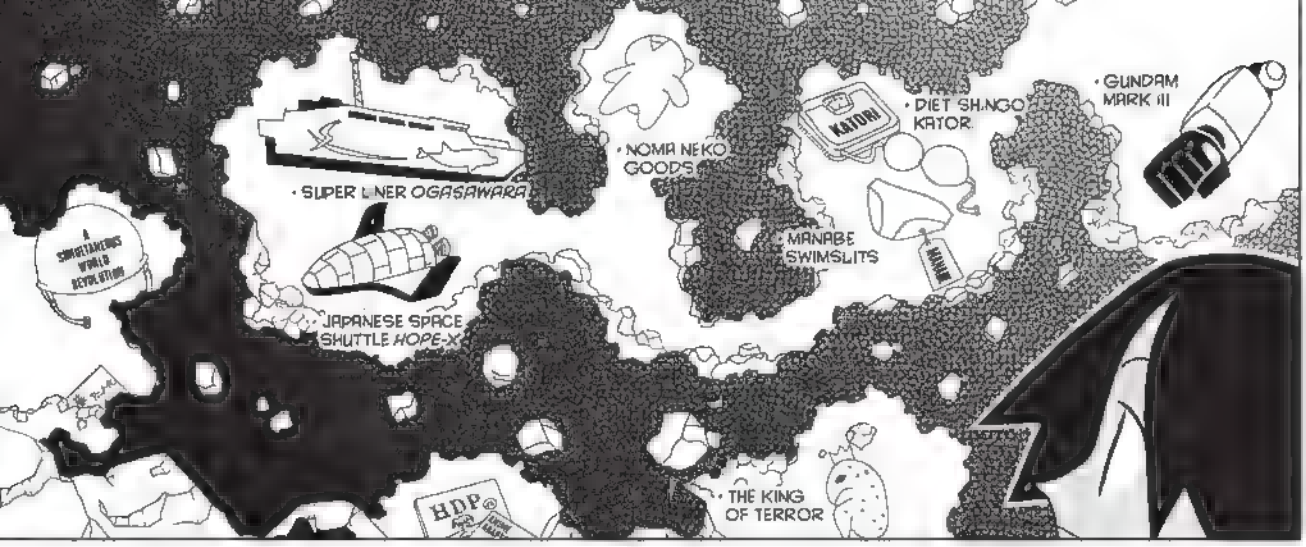
...I'LL PUT ON AN ENYA TAPE.
TO ENTICE YOU INTO A QUIET, PEACEFUL SLUMBER...
CELTIC MUSIC

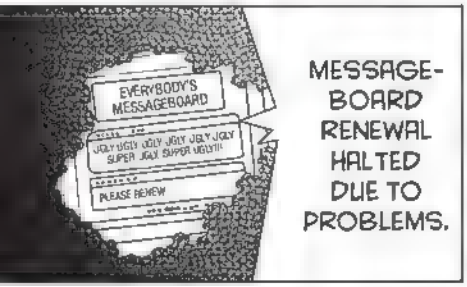
...IT'LL BE A NEW FUTURE.
WHEN YOU WAKE UP...

PHEW...
HOLD ON, KAFUKA-CHAN. WHAT'RE YOU THINKING?
ISN'T THIS GETTING A LITTLE TOO REAL?
UM... UH...

YOU CAN SAY THAT ALL YOU WANT, BUT I'M SLEEPING.
ANYHOW, I'M NOT LETTING YOU SLEEP IN THE AFTER-NOON!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
STICK
ぴたっ
EVERYTHING HAS TO BE PROPERLY TAPED UP SO THERE ARE NO OPENINGS.
HEY, SENSEI! TOMORROW'S OUR SCHOOL TRIP!
HEH...
AND I'LL USE EVERY TECHNIQUE TO MAKE IT NOT HAPPEN.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU I WOULDN'T LET YOU SLEEP?
IF YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP!
きゅ URGH
きゅ URGH
THAT'S MEAN!
AN ENERGY DRINK!
A CUP OF MILK BEFORE BEDTIME!
...TO GET SLEEPY!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'LL USE EVERY TECHNIQUE...
THE SOUND OF A DRIPPING TAP!
ぽたっ DRIP
ぽたっ DRIP
MOSQUITOES BUZZING IN YOUR EARS!
ぶーん BUZZ
ANXIETIES ABOUT THE FUTURE!
OLD AGE, SAVING FOR RETIREMENT, SENILITY
VS.
DAWN OF THE DEAD
HARD-TO-WATCH MOVIES!
A LECTURE BY A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER
DREAM WELL SLEEPING PILLS
SLEEPING PILLS FIVE TIMES STRONGER THAN DE RIEL!

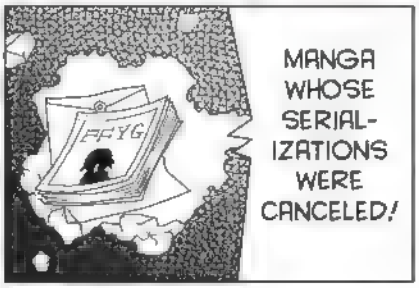
THE MARSHMALLOW MAKER IN THE SKY...
TELL ME A BEDTIME STORY!
I'VE GOT IT! HEY, KUTOU-KUN!
SURE.
WHOA...I FEEL I'M BEING OUT-DONE!
GAMES SO FRIGHTENING, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP!
PlayStation
ZZZ
ZZZ
FWAP
FWUP
FWIP
I WON'T ALLOW ANYBODY TO SLEEP!
I WON'T LET HIM SLEEP!
NNNHH...SUCH AMAZING POWERS TO SHATTER MY PLANS.
NOT JUST PEOPLE AND ANIMALS. LOTS OF STUFF IS HIBERNATING!
UMPH...
IT CONNECTS TO A SIDE-WAYS HOLE.
LOOK! A BIG HOLE UNDER THE FLOOR.
HEY.





MESSAGE-BOARD RENEWAL HALTED DUE TO PROBLEMS.

NATIONAL PROJECTS THAT ARE FROZEN!

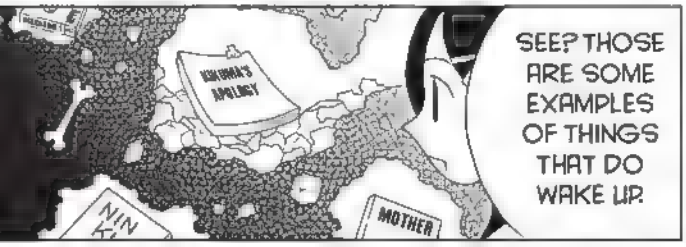


MANGA WHOSE SERIAL-IZATIONS WERE CANCELED!

WHEN SPRING COMES, THEY'LL BLOOM!

- NEGOTIATIONS ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES
- HARUKA IGAWA'S SWIMSUITS
- PLAN TO INTRODUCE A SINGLE LEAGUE
- NEWTON OS
- DEVELOPMENT OF QUAL A
- DEVELOPMENT OF SMART
- NISSAN MID4
- PLAN TO EXCAVATE THE TOKUGAWA TOSHOGU BURIED MONEY
- THE JM NET 4,500 YEN MONTHLY FEE TALK-AS-MUCH-AS-YOU-WANT CELL PHONE SERVICE

ALL OF THESE THINGS ARE MERELY HIBERNATING!

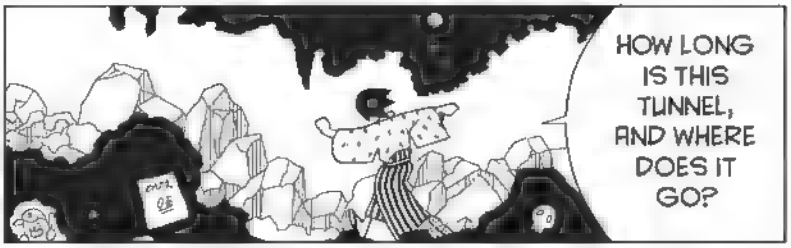


SEE? THOSE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THINGS THAT DO WAKE UP.

NO, THEY WILL!

THESE THINGS NO WAKE UP IN SPRING...

AH.

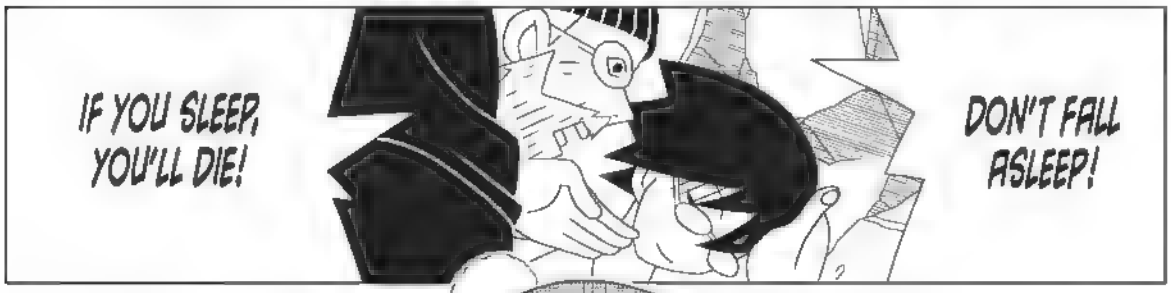


HOW LONG IS THIS TUNNEL, AND WHERE DOES IT GO?

I'LL STAY HERE FOR THE WINTER AND HIBERNATE TILL SPRING.

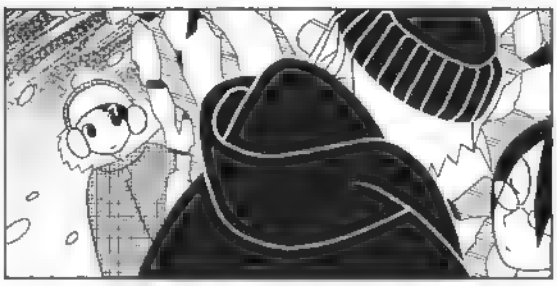
I'VE REACHED THE MOUNTAINS.

HYOOOOO


IF YOU SLEEP, YOU'LL DIE!
DON'T FALL ASLEEP!

HE'S JUST HIBERNATING.
IT'S OKAY.

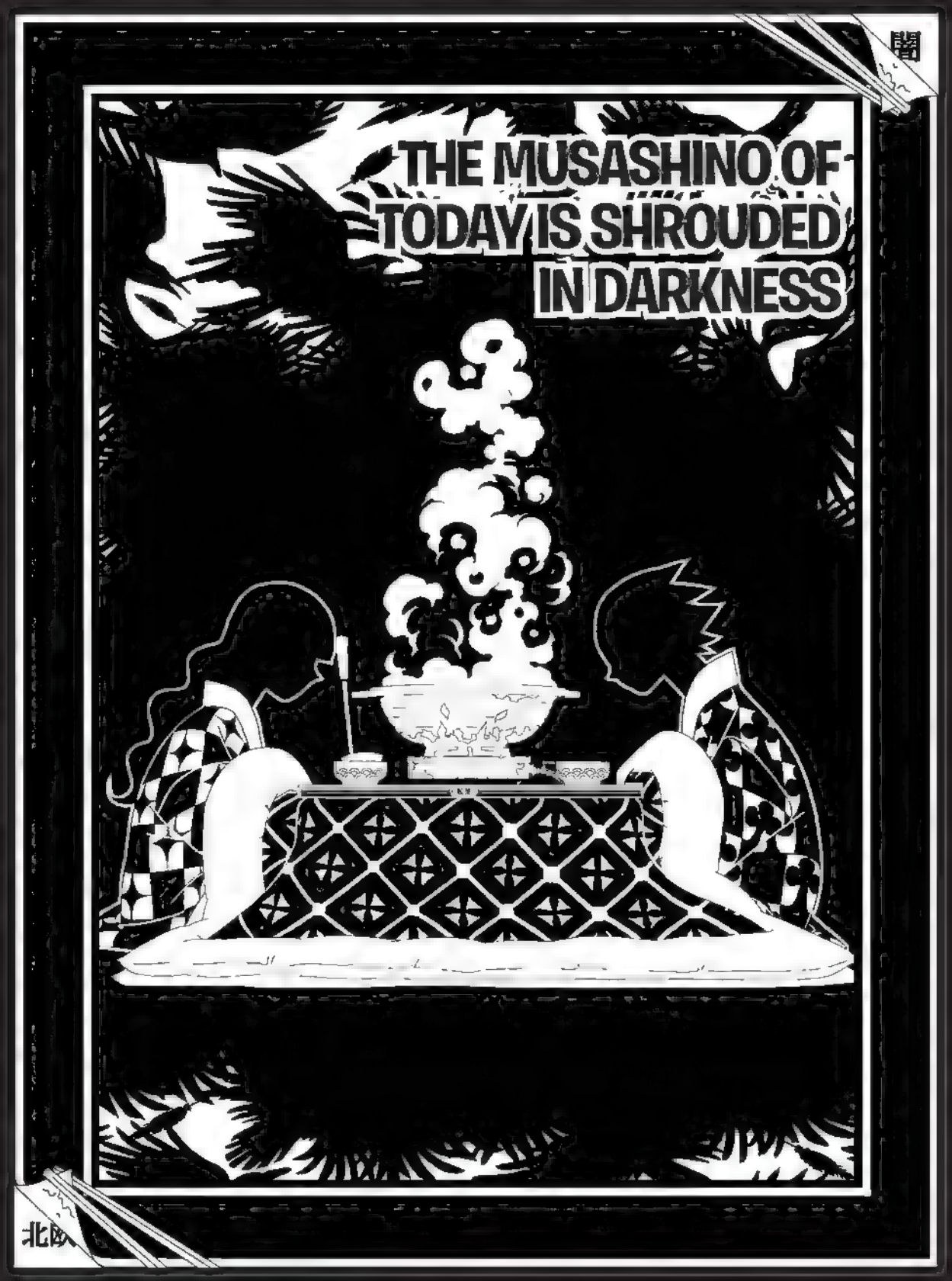
IS THAT SO?



EACH TIME, HE MAKES UP A NEW TRAUMA.
THE FLOOR SCARES ME!
I'M SCARED!

ZZZ
すや
ZZZZ
すや

SEXUAL AWAKENING

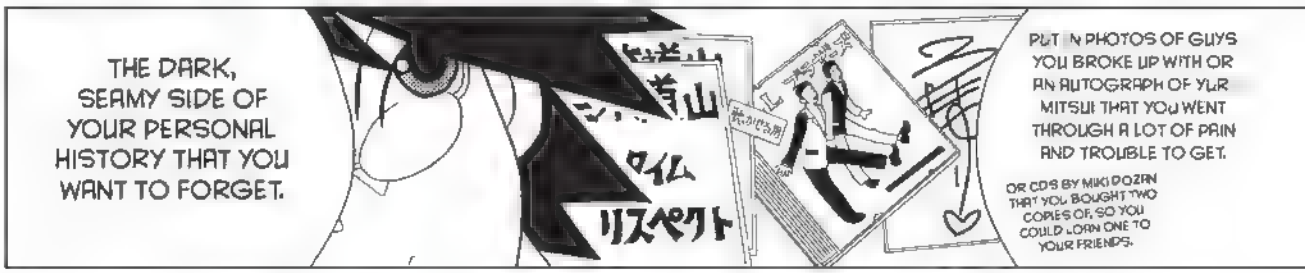


CHAPTER 30

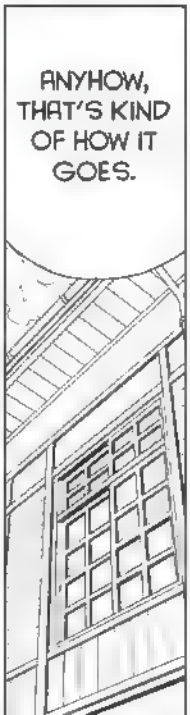
BOIL
INDIA INK
BOIL
WE'RE MAKING A *YAMINABE* STEW.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SO IT HAS A GUM ERASER AND SLIPPERS.
WHAT'S DARK ABOUT THIS?
YAMINABE? A STEW OF DARKNESS?
THAT'S RIGHT... IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE *YAMINABE*...
DARK-NESS OF THE HEART...
SOCIETY'S DARKNESS, OR THE DARKNESS OF THE HEART.
MAI-KEN-TOHO SHIMBUN
RAMPANT GLOOM
GLOOM IN CORRUPTION REFORMS
NO PARDON IN "IT'S ME, IT'S ME" SCAM
DARKNESS IS A MUCH DEEPER THING THAN THIS!

WHY DON'T YOU MAKE A *YAMINABE* OF THE HEART?

YES, A DEEP, DEEP *YAMINABE* OF THE HEART.
YAMINABE OF THE HEART?


THE DARK, SEAMY SIDE OF YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY THAT YOU WANT TO FORGET.
PUT IN PHOTOS OF GUYS YOU BROKE UP WITH OR AN AUTOGRAPH OF YUR MITSUI THAT YOU WENT THROUGH A LOT OF PAIN AND TROUBLE TO GET.
OR CDS BY MIKI DOZAN THAT YOU BOUGHT TWO COPIES OF, SO YOU COULD LORN ONE TO YOUR FRIENDS.

WE SHALL NOW MIX TOGETHER A *YAMINABE* OF THE HEART.

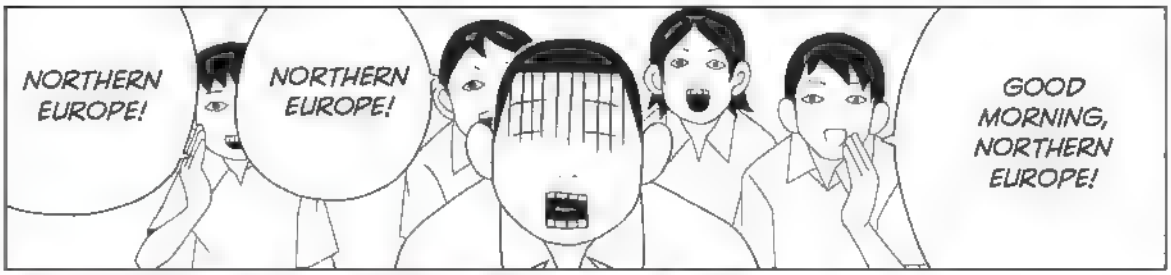

ANYHOW, THAT'S KIND OF HOW IT GOES.

...THE DARKNESS IN YOUR HEART WILL SPREAD!
THE INSTANT SOMEONE GRASPS IT...

ALL RIGHT, NOW EACH OF YOU TAKE TURNS PUTTING IN YOUR CHOPSTICKS.
HEH
OH. AT LEAST IT HAS SOME RICE IN IT.
OF COURSE. IT'S *BLACK MARKET* RICE.
SO, GO ON...GO ON, TRY SOME.
I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT.

NORTHERN EUROPEAN YOUNG BEAUTIES
UM...

N-NO! DON'T!
WHAT'S THIS UNDER YOUR BED?
るるるるるる
LULULULU
LULULULU
NORTHERN EUROPEAN YOUNG BEAUTIES


NORTHERN EUROPE!
NORTHERN EUROPE!
GOOD MORNING, NORTHERN EUROPE!

EUROPEAN
WHY'S EVERY-ONE CALLING YOU NORTHERN EUROPE?

THE HEART'S DARKNESS IS SOMETHING ONLY THE ACTUAL PERSON INVOLVED WOULD KNOW.
HMMM.
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?
わあああ
WAAAAAHH

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

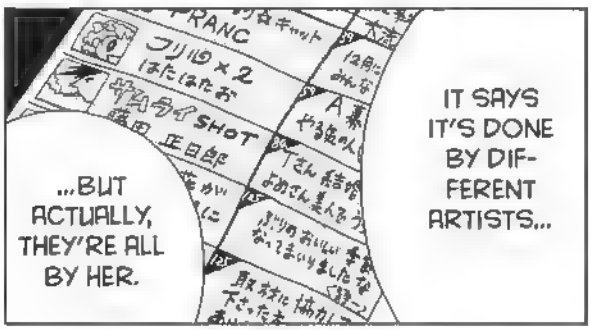
WELL, I'M SURE THERE'S PLENTY OF DARKNESS WHEN IT COMES TO BOYS AND PORNO MAGS.

CHAMP
Vol.8

SHE DREW A WHOLE ISSUE BY HERSELF.
THE CHAMP THAT HARUMI MADE HERSELF?

GULP
OH, THAT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES. THAT'S THE CHAMP MAGAZINE YOU MADE YOURSELF, ISN'T IT, HARUMI?

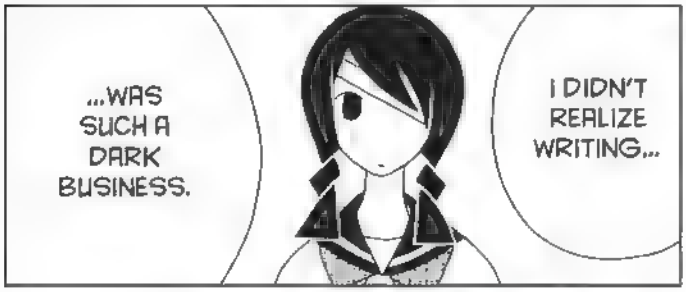
APPARENTLY THIS ONE WAS A TOP CONTENDER TO BECOME AN ANIME.
HER MOST POPULAR STORY IS "OUR LOSS TIME."


...BUT ACTUALLY, THEY'RE ALL BY HER.
IT SAYS IT'S DONE BY DIFFERENT ARTISTS...

AREN'T YOU GOING TO WRITE THE NEXT CHAPTER?
WOW, SO NOSTALGIC.

OR, SHE'D JUST COMPLETE ONE CHAPTER AND STOP THERE.
WHEN SHE LOST INTEREST IN DOING A SERIES, SHE GAVE IT TO OTHERS BEHIND HER.

WHOA! NORMALLY HARUMI IS SO CALM AND QUIET!
RAARGHH
CURSE YOU!


...WAS SUCH A DARK BUSINESS.
I DIDN'T REALIZE WRITING...

SHE MUST HAVE SOME HEAVY DARKNESS IN HER HEART.

I CAN'T REVEAL MY SOURCES.

WHERE'D YOU FIND A THING LIKE THAT?

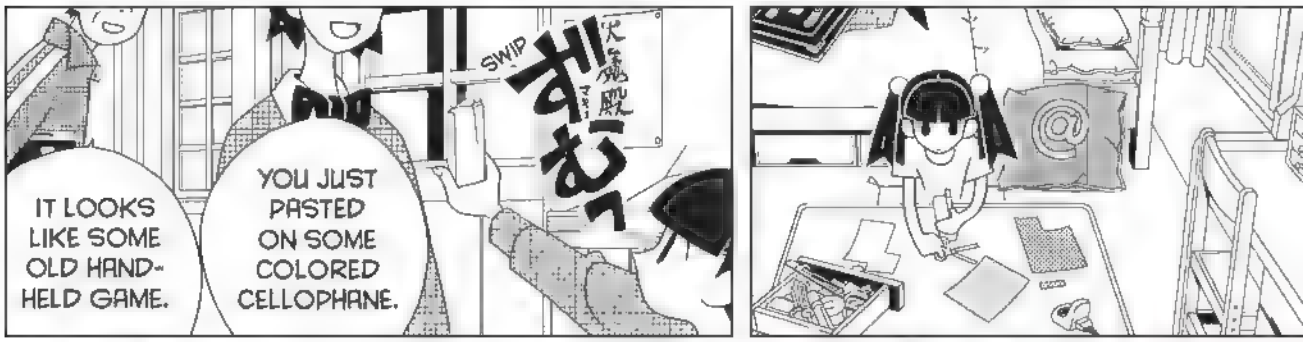
HEH
I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT.

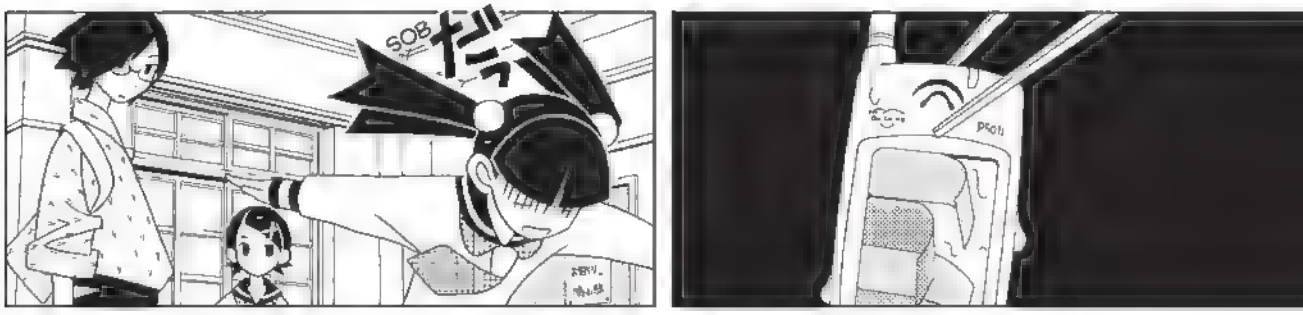
LET'S JUST SAY IT WAS THE *BLACK MARKET*.
SNICKER

NEXT TIME, LET US KNOW MORE IN ADVANCE, 'KAY?

SHUDDER
SHUDDER
ガタガタ
IT'S JUST AN ORDINARY INGREDIENT FOR A HOT POT.
BUT THAT'S JUST NORMAL CHICKEN MEAT.
CLUCK CLUCK
コケケ
PIYO-CHAN...
OF COURSE PIYO-CHAN'S STRONGER!
I WONDER WHO'S STRONGER, A CAT OR HIM?
PIYO-CHAN'S A REAL TOUGH CHICKEN.
ERR... YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO INTO THE DETAILS!
MEOWW
ふう
FWIP
OH, MERU. SO YOU'VE BOUGHT A NEW CELL PHONE.

KUSUDA STATIONERY
STAB
BB
BUT THE SCREEN'S IN BLACK AND WHITE.


SWIP
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME OLD HAND-HELD GAME.
YOU JUST PASTED ON SOME COLORED CELLOPHANE.


SOB
pssh

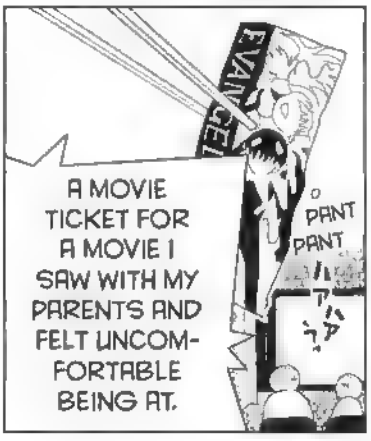
LOL

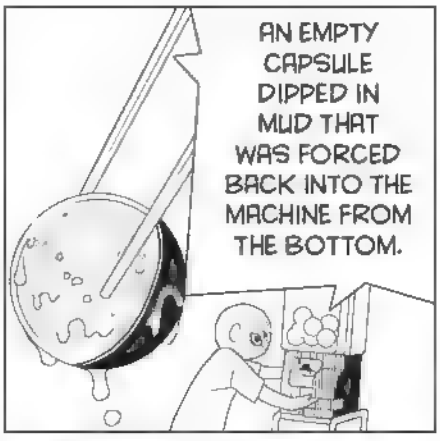
ズゴァアン
KA-BOINNG
MAN, THOSE AREN'T SHORTS, THEY'RE UNDER-SHORTS.

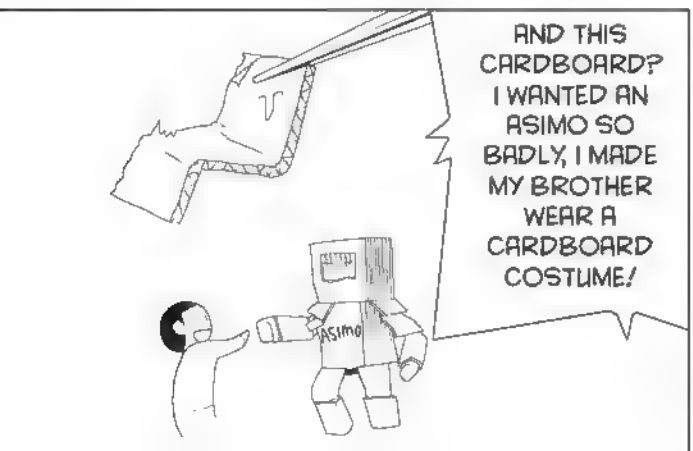
ぬあぁぁあぁあ
WAAHHHH
TH-THEY ARE UNDER-SHORTS!

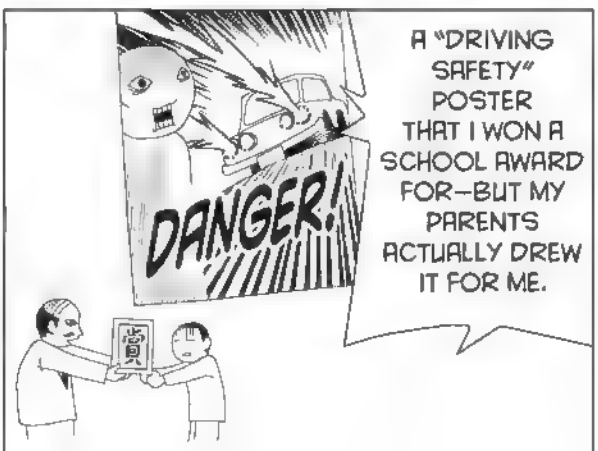
SO COME ON, ALL OF YOU.
THERE'S PLENTY TO GO AROUND.

AN INKED-UP SHIRT—I WANTED A NEW SHIRT SO BADLY, I SPILLED INK OVER MY CLOTHES SO THEY'D BUY ME ONE.


A MOVIE TICKET FOR A MOVIE I SAW WITH MY PARENTS AND FELT UNCOM-FORTABLE BEING AT.
PANT PANT


AN EMPTY CAPSULE DIPPED IN MUD THAT WAS FORCED BACK INTO THE MACHINE FROM THE BOTTOM.


AND THIS CARDBOARD? I WANTED AN ASIMO SO BADLY, I MADE MY BROTHER WEAR A CARDBOARD COSTUME!
ASIMO


DANGER!
A "DRIVING SAFETY" POSTER THAT I WON A SCHOOL AWARD FOR—BUT MY PARENTS ACTUALLY DREW IT FOR ME.

- I BENT A CAR'S ANTENNA BECAUSE I WANTED THE TEACHER'S EXTENDABLE PEN
- I PUT TOOTHPASTE ON A CAT'S NOSE
- I THREW AWAY THE COLORED BABY CHICK I BOUGHT AT AN OUTDOOR STAND BECAUSE IT GREW TOO MUCH
- I MADE MY LITTLE SISTER DRINK MY PEE AFTER MAKING HER BELIEVE THAT IT WAS NATURAL SPRING WATER
- I SENT SOMEONE A LOVE LETTER ALONG WITH A MEGUMI HAYASHIBARA MIX TAPE AND ASKED HER TO LISTEN TO IT
- I WAS TOLD TO BRING A NEWSPAPER TO MY HANDWRITING CLASSES, AND THE NEWSPAPER THAT I BROUGHT ALONG WAS...
- THE SHOOWATCH GAME THAT I BORROWED FROM A FRIEND AND BROKE BY HITTING IT SIXTEEN TIMES PER SECOND
- THE STRAW WORM'S SKIN THAT I STRIPPED OFF
- THE CLOTHES THAT MY MOTHER WORE ON PARENT VISITATION DAY
- I PUT GARBAGE IN THE HOLE IN THE WOODEN PLANK OF THE FLOOR
- THE BATON THAT I DROPPED DURING THE CLASS RELAY RACE

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU ALL HAVE A LOT OF DARKNESS INSIDE YOU!

CRASH
パリン

RAGGGH
ぬおらあぁあ

WAAAAH
わあああ

I THINK WE NEED MORE INGREDIENTS.

WE'VE COME TO THE BOTTOM...

EMPTY
からっぽう

...PROCEED TO THE BLACK MARKET!

TO PROCURE MORE DARKNESS OF THE HEART...

IT'S THE DARKNESS IN THE HEART OF A FAMOUS PERSON.

WHAT'S THIS?

OR VARIOUS HISTORICAL EXAMPLES OF DARKNESS.

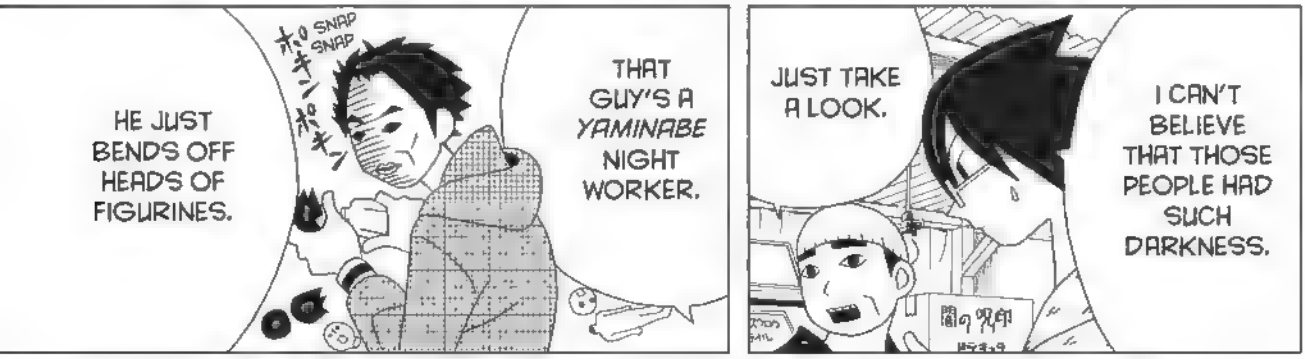
OTHING FROM NOTHING
AYU
Z-1
BaKKAみたい
AYA

LIKE THE RAP CD WITH UTAHIME'S *REAL* DEBUT SONGS.

WE'VE GOT A VARIETY OF SHADY STUFF FOR YOU.

HELLO. WELCOME TO OUR SHOP.

国民年金
街
WE'VE GOT A HUGE SELECTION OF ITEMS.
COSTUMES FROM MUSICALS OF THE PAST...
TAPES OF TV DRAMAS THAT WERE DISCONTINUED DUE TO REASONS OUT OF ANYONE'S CONTROL...


HE JUST BENDS OFF HEADS OF FIGURINES.
SNAP SNAP
THAT GUY'S A YAMINABE NIGHT WORKER.
JUST TAKE A LOOK.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THOSE PEOPLE HAD SUCH DARKNESS.

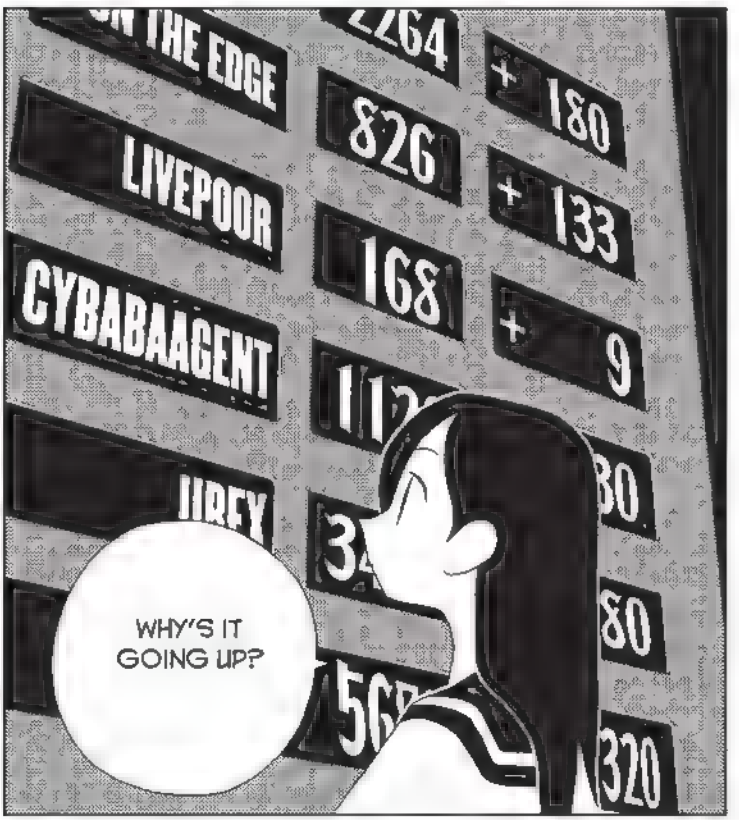
DARKNESS OF THE POLICE, OF BASEBALL, OF CHARITIES.
I'VE ALSO GOT A LOT OF INDUSTRIAL-GRADE DARKNESS.
THERE'S ALWAYS SOME HIDDEN DARKNESS IN THE HEART.
B-BUT USUALLY PEOPLE TAKE SUCH GOOD CARE OF THEM!

THAT'S TOO DARK EVEN FOR ME!
PERHAPS I CAN INTEREST YOU IN THE HIGHEST-GRADE DARKNESS WITH THIS DOSSIER ON THE SHIMOYAMA INCIDENT, ONE OF THE GREAT INCIDENTS OF THE SHOWA ERA?
DARKNESS OF THE FINANCIAL WORLD. IT'S A FOUR-BILLION-YEN GOLD FOLDING SCREEN.
HOW ABOUT THIS?

THERE'S A GENUINE YAMINABE!
SENSEI, LOOK OVER THERE!
THAT'S EVEN WORSE!
THEN, HOW 'BOUT THE GREATEST DARKNESS IN THE SINGING INDUSTRY—THE REAL AGES OF IDOL SINGERS.

IT'S A YAMINABE FOR ILLEGAL MONEY LENDERS!
MAY I ASK WHAT YOU'RE STEWING?
I'LL GET MYSELF KILLED!
I SHOULDN'T STICK MY HEAD TOO MUCH INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S DARKNESS.
DASHH
んオニっ
NOOO! NEVER MIND! YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME!
LISTEN, YOUNG LADY, PEOPLE ARE GONNA INTERPRET THIS THE WRONG WAY.
COULD YOU MAKE THE BATH HOTTER?
PLEASE SET UP A POLICE BOX IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE!
I'M BEING TARGETED!
ER...
無公園前交番

THE PRESENT-DAY BLACK MARKET



CURRENT CHARGES FROM THIS ISSUE

LETTER OF ACCUSATION

PLAINTIFF:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: KAERE KIMURA

(OFFICIAL SEAL) DEFENDANT:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: TARO SEKIUTSU

DATE: OCTOBER 5
ATTN: CHIEF OF POLICE

- PURPOSE OF ACCUSATION
THE ACTS BY THE DEFENDANT AS STATED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED TO FALL UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 230 (CRIME OF DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER) AND ARTICLE 233 (CRIME OF OBSTRUCTION OF BUSINESS) AND THIS COMPLAINT IS MADE TO PURSUE SEVERE PUNISHMENT TO BE HANDED OUT TO THE DEFENDANT.

- FACTS OF THE ACCUSATION
AT ABOUT 3:30 PM, WHILE I WAS REHEARSING WITH THE BAND IN PREPARATION FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL, THE DEFENDANT CALLED OUT, "THIS SONG IS NO GOOD!" THEN SHE GRIMACED, AND MADE A GESTURE TO ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE WITNESSES TO AGREE WITH HER.

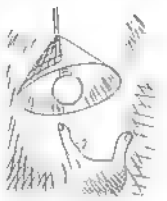
AT THAT TIME, I WAS UNAWARE OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED, SINCE I WAS SO ABSORBED IN MY MUSIC, BUT DUE TO THIS MALICIOUS BEHAVIOR ON THE PART OF THE DEFENDANT, THE REPUTATION OF MY SINGING AND THE BAND WERE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED. FURTHERMORE, IT PREJUDICED THE AUDIENCE WHO WAS LISTENING TO MY SONG, AND ALTHOUGH MY SPECTACULAR DEBUT IN THE ENTERTAINMENT WORLD WAS PRACTICALLY GUARANTEED, THIS INCIDENT CAUSED MY CAREER TO GO BACK TO A BLANK SLATE.

THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTS ARE CONSIDERED TO FALL UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 230 (CRIME OF DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER) AND ARTICLE 233 (CRIME OF OBSTRUCTION OF BUSINESS) AND IN ORDER FOR THE DEFENDANT TO BE GIVEN STRICT PUNISHMENT, I HEREBY MAKE MY CHARGES.

TESTIMONY
1. WITNESS: NOZOMU ITOSHIKI
2. WITNESS: NAMI HITOU

PAPER BLOGS

FOREWORD



I CHANGED THE LIGHTBULB IN MY TOILET TO THE LOWEST WATTAGE.

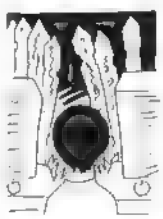
A DARK ROOM IS CALMING. EVEN LATE AT NIGHT, TOKYO IS BRIGHT, AND THAT DOESN'T SUIT ME. EVEN THOUGH IT'S BRIGHT, ONCE I SLIPPED AND FELL ON A PIECE OF ICE THE SIZE OF A LARGE PAPERBACK BOOK. WE HAD ANOTHER SEVERE WINTER THIS YEAR. I GOT FREEZER BURNS FROM MY TOILET SEAT. WHEN I TURNED MY COAT POCKETS INSIDE OUT, MECHANICAL PENCIL LEADS THAT HAD TURNED INTO POWDER SCATTERED EVERYWHERE. SOGGY POCKET WARMERS CAME OUT OF MY WASHING MACHINE. WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT MY MENTAL STATE WHEN I DREAM OF TAKAKO MATSU, WHO I DON'T LIKE MUCH?

CREEPY THINGS DARE

I THINK I'M CREEPY. I JUST CAN'T STAND ANY PART OF MYSELF. IF I WENT TO A PICNIC AND SAW MY UGLY FACE REFLECTED IN THE LAKE, I'D JUST JUMP INTO IT. IF I WENT SHOPPING AND SAW MY UGLY FIGURE REFLECTED IN THE SHOW WINDOW, I'D BANG MY HEAD AGAINST THE GLASS AND CUT MY THROAT WITH A FRAGMENT. MY TV IS ALWAYS ON. THAT'S BECAUSE IF I TURNED IT OFF, I'D SEE MY UGLY REFLECTION. ON SUNNY DAYS, I HAVE NO DESIRE TO LEAVE THE HOUSE. EVEN MY SHADOW IS UGLY. I'M AN UGLY MANGA CHILD WHO'LL NEVER SEE THE DAY WHEN I BECOME A SWAN.

I CHANGED THE LIGHTBULB OVER MY SINK TO THE LOWEST WATTAGE.

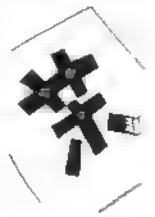
READING



I WAS A KID WHO SUFFERED A LOT. I WAS OFTEN TOLD TO READ OUT LOUD IN FRONT OF THE CLASS. THE TEACHER ALWAYS TOLD ME, "YOU READ IN A REAL ROD-STRAIGHT MONOTONE, DON'T YOU." I RESENTED THAT, SO THOUGHT I'D GO AND REALLY READ RODS. THERE WERE THESE WOODEN RODS THAT ARE AT THE BACK OF GRAVESTONES. BUT THE KANJI ON THEM WERE TOO DIFFICULT, SO I COULDN'T READ THEM. I FAILED AT READING RODS. AS A PERSON WHO COULDN'T EVEN READ RODS, I SHOULD'VE JUST CRAWLED STRAIGHT UNDER THAT STONE. I WAS A KID WHO SUFFERED A LOT. I NEVER WON A POPSICLE, SO I COULDN'T READ WHAT WAS ON A POPSICLE STICK. THAT'S BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING WRITTEN ON IT.

I CHANGED THE LIGHTBULB IN MY KITCHEN TO THE LOWEST WATTAGE.

CULTURAL FESTIVAL



I DON'T LIKE FESTIVALS THAT GO FROM MIDNIGHT TO MORNING. I DISLIKE CULTURAL FESTIVALS IN GENERAL. THAT'S BECAUSE THEY DEMAND CULTURE OF UNCULTURED PERSONS LIKE ME. CULTURAL WORK ISN'T MY THING. FOR OUR CULTURAL FESTIVAL, OUR CLASS PUT ON A TEA SHOP. I WAS GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PAINTING THE CHARACTER FOR "TEA" *(OCHA)* FOR THE SIGN. I DON'T LIKE VIRIDIAN PAINT. YOU CAN PAINT, AND PAINT, BUT IT ALWAYS COMES OUT UNEVEN. I'M SO UNCULTURED THAT I CAN'T EVEN PAINT THE WORD "TEA" PROPERLY. SO, DON'T TRY TO GET ME TO DO ANY HIGH-CULTURE THINGS. I DON'T UNDERSTAND RUSSIAN ANIMATION, OR BOO YEN MANGA, OR 326, OR HIROMIX. DON'T CALL MANGA THE "CULTURAL PRIDE OF JAPAN TO THE WORLD," BECAUSE THERE ARE PLENTY OF MANGA IN THIS COUNTRY THAT AREN'T LIKE THAT.

I CHANGED THE LIGHTBULB OVER THE STAIRWAY TO THE LOWEST WATTAGE.

PREVIEWING

I DON'T HAVE CLOTHES TO WEAR TO GO OUT AND BUY CLOTHES. THOUGH I WANT TO GO AND CHECK OUT FASHIONABLE CLOTHES TO BUY, THERE ARE NO CLOTHES TO PREVIEW BEFORE I BUY THEM. I HAVE TO GO AND PREVIEW CLOTHES THAT I HAVE TO PREVIEW. PEOPLE WHO ARE TIMID STRUGGLE TO GO AND CHECK THINGS OUT IN ADVANCE. WHEN I WEAR OLD CLOTHES THAT I FORCED MYSELF TO BUY, I REALLY LOOK LIKE I'M WEARING RAGGEDY DUDS. A PAIR OF GLASSES THAT I THOUGHT LOOKED TRENDY ENDED UP BEING CALLED "ANEHA GLASSES" AND PEOPLE MADE FUN OF ME. ONE DAY I WANTED A CAT, SO I WENT TO THE PET SHOP TO PREVIEW SOME OF THEM. I PREVIEWED THE SAME CAT OVER AND OVER AGAIN. AFTER I HAD PREVIEWED IT SEVERAL TIMES, I WENT TO THE STORE AND IT WASN'T THERE ANYMORE. OF COURSE, IT WAS BOUGHT UP BY SOMEONE ELSE. BEFORE I EVEN BOUGHT IT, I SUFFERED PET-LOSS SYNDROME.

I CHANGED THE LIGHTBULB IN MY ENTRYWAY TO THE LOWEST WATTAGE POSSIBLE.

AMAKUDARI

MANGA ARTISTS NEVER GET CUSHY JOBS THROUGH *AMAKUDARI*. I'LL PROBABLY BE UNHAPPY IN MY NEXT LIFE. NO, MAKE THAT DEFINITELY UNHAPPY. I WON'T HAVE SAVINGS TO LIVE OFF OF, NOR WILL I HAVE WORK. THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS TO TRY BEING USEFUL TO SOCIETY THROUGH MANGA. FOR INSTANCE, I WENT ON A SOJOURN IN THE URURUN WORLD. I WENT TO A REMOTE PART OF AFRICA TO TEACH DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN HOW TO DRAW MANGA. WHEN I CONFIDENTLY DREW MY BEST MANGA, THE CHILDREN UNANIMOUSLY SAID, "YOU'RE PLAGIARIZING *DRAGON BALL*. THIS IS PLAGIARISM." THE SON OF THE HEAD OF THE VILLAGE GOT MAD AND CRITICIZED ME BITTERLY. "THE ART STYLE LOOKS OLD, THE STORIES ARE CLICHÉD, AND THE SUBJECT MATTER ISN'T APPROPRIATE FOR A *SHONEN MAGAZINE*." AND SO, I TEARFULLY DEPARTED. WITH AN INJURED HEART, I VOWED NEVER TO RETURN. I COULDN'T EVEN CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY.

I CHANGED THE LIGHTBULB AT MY DESK TO THE LOWEST WATTAGE.

OMIKOSHI

THE *FUNDOSHI* THAT I WAS FORCED TO WEAR WAS NOTHING MORE THAN AN EXERCISE IN HUMILIATING MASOCHISM. IT WAS FOR THE *OMIKOSHI* FOR THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION. AT THAT TIME, MY MONGOLIAN BLUE SPOT WAS STILL THERE AND I REALLY, REALLY DIDN'T LIKE IT. WHEN I TOLD PEOPLE IN MY CLASS, I WAS TEASED HORRIBLY, SO I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TRANSFER TO A NEW SCHOOL, RIGHT? I HAD TO KEEP HIDING IT. I APPLIED MY MOM'S FOUNDATION ON MY BUTT. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D EVER USED MAKEUP. I STARTED FEELING A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE HALFWAY THROUGH WHILE PUTTING IT ON. BUT, I WANTED TO HIDE IT WELL, SO I APPLIED THE MAKEUP METICULOUSLY. MY FRIENDS WHO CAME TO PICK ME UP TEASED ME, SAYING, "YOU SMELL LIKE YOUR MOM." BUT I DIDN'T CARE. IT WAS BETTER THAN LETTING PEOPLE SEE MY MONGOLIAN BLUE SPOT. THAT WAS THE FIRST AND LAST TIME THAT I PUT FOUNDATION ON MY BUTT. EVEN NOW, WHEN I SMELL CHEAP WOMEN'S FOUNDATION, I FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE. LATELY, I'M SURE FOUNDATIONS HAVE REALLY BECOME ADVANCED, SO KIDS CAN FEEL ALL RIGHT ABOUT NOT APPLYING IT TOO THICKLY.

I CHANGED THE LIGHTBULB IN MY LIVING ROOM TO THE LOWEST WATTAGE.

FINDING MISTAKES

MY LIFE HAS BEEN FULL OF MISTAKES, AND I'M SURE IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE FILLED WITH MISTAKES. PEOPLE OFTEN POINT MY MISTAKES OUT TO ME. EVEN IF I ACKNOWLEDGE MY MISTAKE AND APOLOGIZE, I'M TOLD THAT IT'S A MISTAKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY MISTAKE SO EASILY. THAT'S ME, I CAN ONLY MAKE MISTAKEN EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE. DURING JUNIOR HIGH, WHEN I LIKED A GIRL, I CHECKED OUT HER ADDRESS, MADE HESITANT PHONE CALLS (IT SEEMS THAT SOCIETY CALLS THEM "CREEPY PHONE CALLS WHERE THE CALLER DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING"), AND DREW A REALISTIC PORTRAIT OF HER. ACTUALLY, IT WASN'T JUST HER FACE THAT I DREW. SINCE I WAS THE KIND OF KID WHO'D DRAW NIPPLES IN JUMP MANGA WHEN THE CHARACTERS DIDN'T HAVE ANY NIPPLES, I DID AT LEAST THAT. IT WAS A MISTAKEN EXPRESSION OF LOVE. I'M SORRY. IN THE END, I DIDN'T TALK TO HER EVEN ONCE DURING THE THREE YEARS OF SCHOOL.

I CHANGED THE LIGHTBULB IN MY PENLIGHT TO THE LOWEST WATTAGE.

PROOF

EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE I GET UNEASY. I WONDER IF THE THINGS I DRAW ARE ACTUALLY BEING PRINTED IN MAGAZINES, AND IF PEOPLE ARE ACTUALLY READING THEM. I'M SHY, SO I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THEM NOT BEING READ, BUT SOMETIMES I THINK THAT IT'S SOME RICH PERSON'S HOBBY, AND THAT I'M BEING DUPED. MAYBE THEY'RE INTENTIONALLY CHOOSING A TALENTLESS AUTHOR LIKE ME TO WRITE THESE STORIES, AND THEY MAKE ME *THINK* THAT THE MAGAZINES ARE BEING PUBLISHED, BUT MEANWHILE THAT PERSON'S LOOKING AT THEM AND LAUGHING... THE REALLY INGENIOUS, GRANDIOSE SHOCKER IS THAT PERHAPS THE NEIGHBORHOOD CONVENIENCE STORES AND BOOKSTORES ARE IN ON THE JOKE, AND THEY'RE PUTTING FAKE COPIES OF *SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI* WHERE MY EYES WILL SEE THEM... NO, THAT'S GOT TO BE IT. IT'S JUST TOO BIZARRE TO THINK THAT I'M BEING PUBLISHED IN *SHONEN MAGAZINE* AND HAVING BOOKS PUBLISHED. ARE MY MANGA BEING SOLD IN YOUR TOWN...? I DIDN'T THINK SO... THIS MANUSCRIPT COULDN'T EVEN GET TO YOUR TOWN, SO THERE'S NO WAY I COULD PROVE IT. EVERY DAY MY SUSPICIONS ARE GETTING CLOSER TO BEING CONFIRMED.

I CHANGED THE LIGHTBULB IN MY STORAGE SHED TO THE LOWEST WATTAGE.

HIBERNATION

I ENVY HIBERNATION. FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, THERE HASN'T BEEN A DAY WHEN I'VE SLEPT DEEPLY, OR FOR A LONG STRETCH. EVEN WHEN I TRIED DRINKING MILK BEFORE BED, I GOT SICK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND ENDED UP RUNNING TO THE TOILET. WHEN I SLEEP LIGHTLY, I'LL HEAR THE ASSISTANTS' CONVERSATIONS FROM THE NEXT ROOM, AND THEY ALL SOUND LIKE THEY'RE CRITICIZING ME. NO, BUT OF COURSE, THEY ARE CRITICIZING ME. LIKE, "FOR AN ADULT, HE'S SHAMEFUL," OR "HE HAS NO PRESENCE," OR "I'M NOT LEARNING ANYTHING BEING HERE." THERE ARE LIMITS TO MAKING FUN OF SOMEBODY. THE WHOLE WORLD IS SAYING BAD THINGS ABOUT ME. SALESPEOPLE AT CONVENIENCE STORES, PASSENGERS ON THE BUS, FANS OF *GINTAMA*—THEY'RE ALL SPEAKING ILL OF ME. AND FINALLY, I HEARD THIS. THE PLAN TO KILL KUMETA. A PERFECT PLAN TO DUMP MY BODY IN THE CAR, ROLL THE CAR INTO THE LAKE, AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A SUICIDE. I'VE GOT TO KILL BEFORE I GET KILLED.

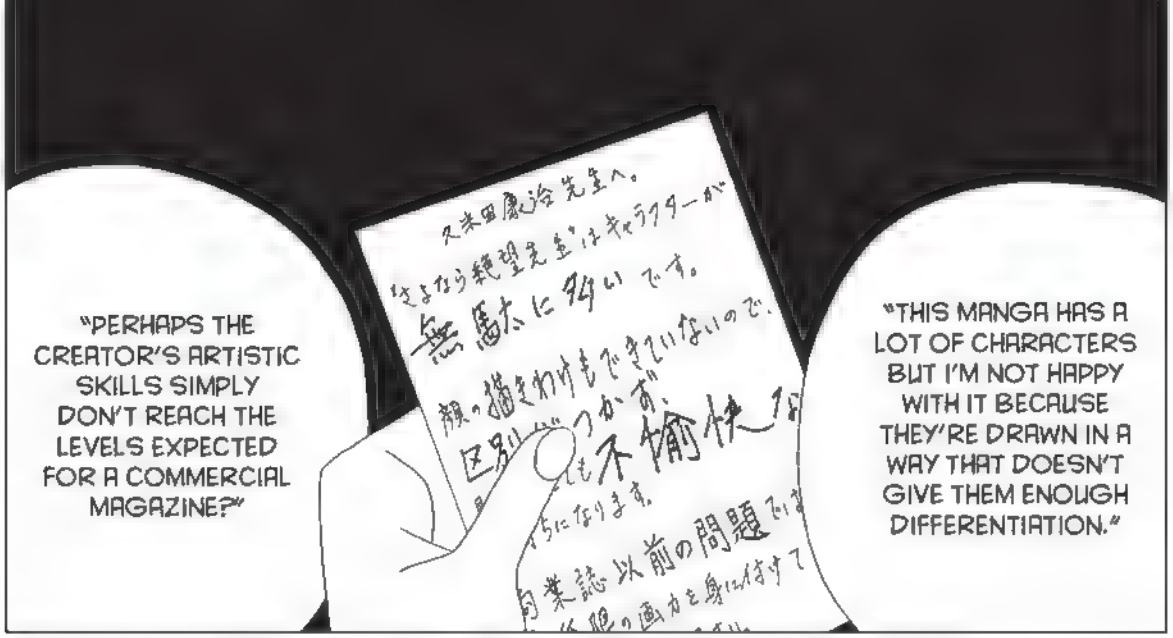
I'VE CHANGED THE LIGHTBULB IN MY BATHROOM TO THE LOWEST WATTAGE.

YAMINABE

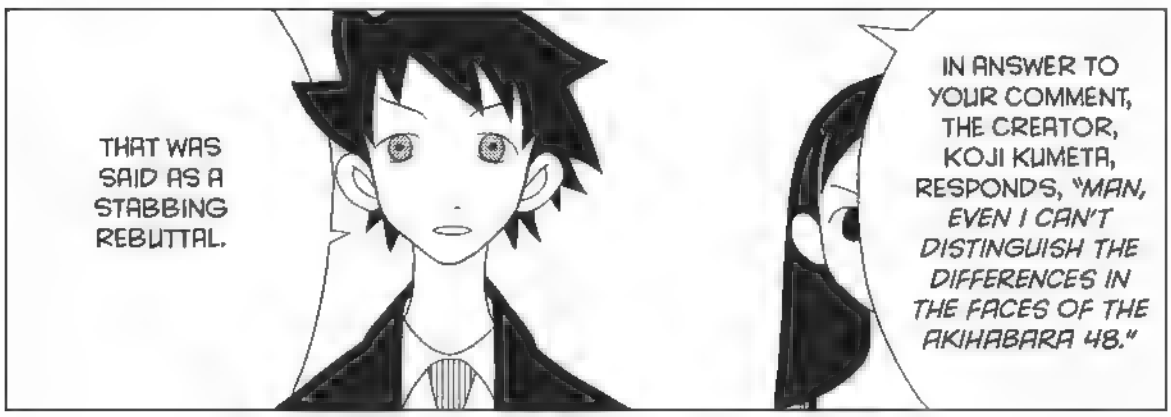
BASICALLY, WHEN YOU'RE HAVING AN OFFICIAL *YAMINABE*, THE TENSION OF THE DARK MYSTERY ALREADY GETS LOST. WHEN YOU DO A HOT POT STEW BY YOURSELF, IT'S CLOSER TO BEING A *YAMINABE*. WHEN I LOOK AT THE INGREDIENTS LIST FOR THE SEASONING *MIRIN*, THIS IS WHAT I FIND LISTED. INGREDIENTS: GLUTINOUS RICE, RICE, MALTED RICE. IT KIND OF FEELS LIKE I'M BEING MADE FUN OF IN THE WORST WAY. KOJI KUMETA, ALL ALONE, HAVING A HOT POT WITH RICE. IF YOU WANT TO LAUGH, GO AHEAD AND LAUGH. I'M JUST NOTHING BUT BLACK MALTED RICE, MADE FROM BLACK MARKET RICE. THE INTERIOR OF MY HEART IS PITCH-BLACK DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS IN MY HEART IS SO DEEP, IT'S BOTTOMLESS. AS A KID, THE COLOR BLACK IN MY PRINT SET WOULD BE THE FIRST TO GO. I BECAME A MANGA ARTIST WITH FEW COLOR PAGES.

I CHANGED THE LIGHTBULB IN MY LIGHT BOX TO THE LOWEST WATTAGE.

REVIEW OF THE WEEKLY EDITION OF
SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI
JUN KUTOU
CHIRI KITSU
GOOD MORNING.
WE'LL BE TAKING OPINIONS AND SCOLDINGS FROM OUR MANY READERS.
IN THIS PROGRAM, WE WILL BE REVIEWING COMMENTS THAT WE'VE RECEIVED FOR SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI.
IT'S AN OPINION FROM A READER FROM TOKYO, WITH THE PEN NAME OF "U.A. INABA."
NOW FOR OUR FIRST POSTCARD.


"PERHAPS THE CREATOR'S ARTISTIC SKILLS SIMPLY DON'T REACH THE LEVELS EXPECTED FOR A COMMERCIAL MAGAZINE?"
"THIS MANGA HAS A LOT OF CHARACTERS BUT I'M NOT HAPPY WITH IT BECAUSE THEY'RE DRAWN IN A WAY THAT DOESN'T GIVE THEM ENOUGH DIFFERENTIATION."

JUN KUTOU
CHIRI KITSU
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR OPINION.

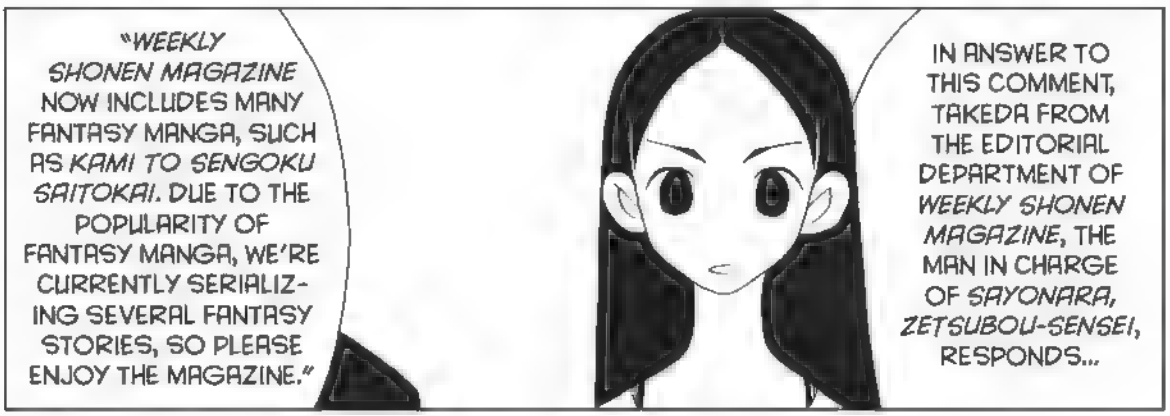

THAT WAS SAID AS A STABBING REBUTTAL.
IN ANSWER TO YOUR COMMENT, THE CREATOR, KOJI KUMETA, RESPONDS, "MAN, EVEN I CAN'T DISTINGUISH THE DIFFERENCES IN THE FACES OF THE AKIHABARA 48."

JUN KUTOU
CHIRI KITSU
AND WE'D LIKE TO USE THEM EFFECTIVELY FOR FUTURE ISSUES.
WE'VE RECEIVED YOUR COMMENTS FOR SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI, WHICH WE'D LIKE TO USE FOR OUR REFERENCE.

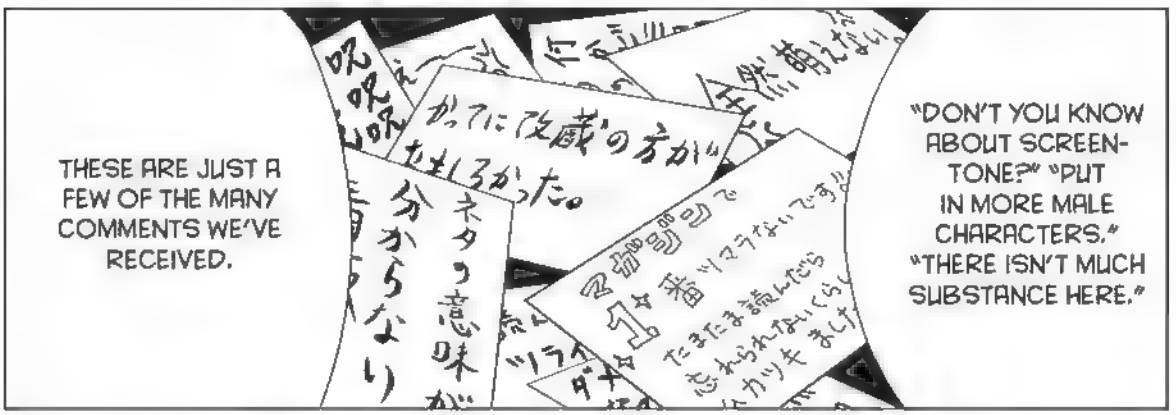
IT COMES FROM A "MEISENRODEN-SAN."
JUN KUTOU
CHIRI KITSU
LET US NOW PROCEED WITH THE NEXT POST-CARD.

"DON'T YOU KNOW THAT MOST ANIME NOWADAYS ARE FANTASIES?"
"ANYHOW, I ONLY READ FANTASY STORIES."
"SEEMS LIKE THE CREATOR IS TRYING TO GET HIS WORK ANI-MATED BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE IT'S NOT A FANTASY."

...FOR YOUR COMMENT.
THANK YOU...


"WEEKLY SHONEN MAGAZINE NOW INCLUDES MANY FANTASY MANGA, SUCH AS KAMI TO SENGOKU SAITOKAI. DUE TO THE POPULARITY OF FANTASY MANGA, WE'RE CURRENTLY SERIALIZ-ING SEVERAL FANTASY STORIES, SO PLEASE ENJOY THE MAGAZINE."
IN ANSWER TO THIS COMMENT, TAKEDA FROM THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT OF WEEKLY SHONEN MAGAZINE, THE MAN IN CHARGE OF SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI, RESPONDS...

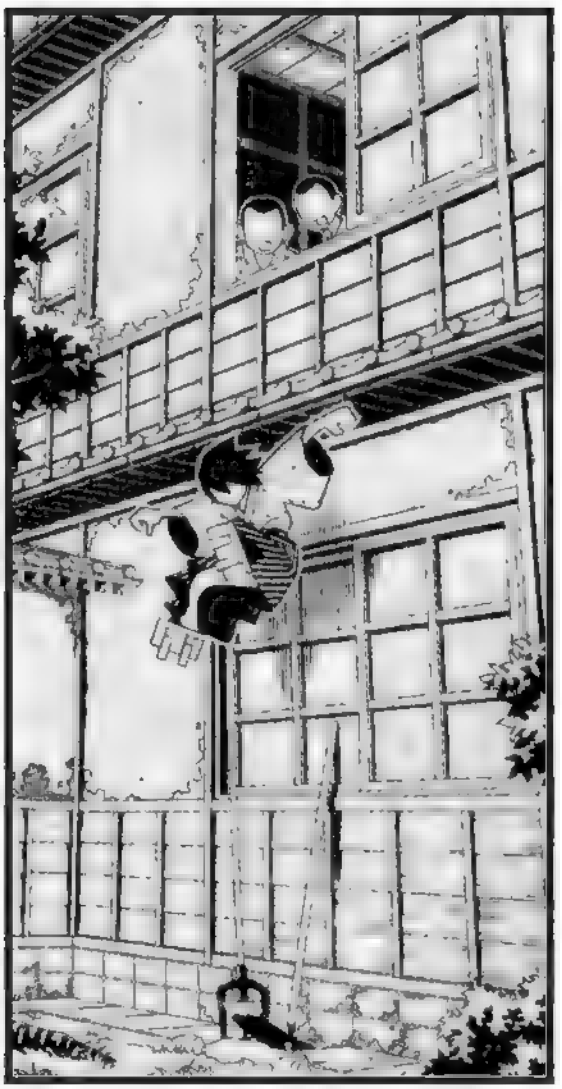
WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED COMMENTS LIKE THE FOLLOWING:
JUN KUTOU
CHIRI KITSU
DUE TO SPACE CONSTRAINTS, WE'RE UNABLE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THEM IN DETAIL.


THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE MANY COMMENTS WE'VE RECEIVED.
"DON'T YOU KNOW ABOUT SCREEN-TONE?" "PUT IN MORE MALE CHARACTERS." "THERE ISN'T MUCH SUBSTANCE HERE."

JUN KUTOU
CHIRI KITSU
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR OPINION.

WE HOPE YOU CONTINUE TO ENJOY SHONEN MAGAZINE AND SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI.
JUN KUTOU
CHIRI KITSU
WE'D LIKE TO USE YOUR COMMENTS AS REFERENCE. WE FEEL THEY'LL BE HELPFUL IN CREATING FUTURE WORKS.

HEY, DON'T OPEN IT, OKAY?
-1-



ZETSUBOU LITERARY COMPILATION

BOTCHAN

JUST LIKE HIS PARENTS, HE WAS A BOY WHO WANTED TO DIE, AND EVER SINCE HE WAS A LITTLE CHILD, HE'D ALWAYS THINK OF WAYS TO KILL HIMSELF.

DURING HIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DAYS, HE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY JUMPING OUT OF THE SECOND STORY WINDOW, BUT HE COULDN'T DIE.

THE FOLLOWING YEAR, HE TRIED CUTTING HIS WRISTS WITH A LETTER OPENER BUT, AGAIN, HE COULDN'T DIE.

THEN THE YEAR AFTER THAT, HE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY HANGING HIMSELF WITH A TWISTED PAPER ROPE, AND HE TRIED TO POISON HIMSELF WITH ASPARAGUS GAS BUT, AGAIN, HE COULDN'T DIE.

THAT WAS HIS LIFE.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. In the case of a text-dense manga like *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei*, it's a delicate art indeed. Although most of the jokes are universal, Koji Kumeta is famous for filling his manga with references to Japanese politics, entertainment, *otaku* culture, religion, and sports. Unless you're a true Japanophile, it's difficult to understand it all without some serious background knowledge of current events at the time the manga was running. Kumeta also uses references to foreign literature and politics, so even Japanese readers probably don't get all the humor. For your reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the more obscure references and difficult-to-translate jokes in *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei*.

General Notes

Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei (title)

The title *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei* literally translates to "Goodbye, Mr. Despair." It's a possible reference to James Hilton's 1934 novel of a beloved teacher, *Goodbye, Mr. Chips* (known in Japan as *Chips-sensei, Sayonara*). The Del Rey edition preserves the original Japanese title, with "The Power of Negative Thinking" as a subtitle to express Itoshiki's philosophy. (The English subtitle is itself a reference to Norman Vincent Peale's 1952 self-help book *The Power of Positive Thinking*.)

Signs

Koji Kumeta's highly detailed and realistic renderings of modern Japanese life present one special challenge to the letterer. Kumeta fills his panels with all the ephemera of everyday life—street signs, product labels, magazine covers, newspaper pages, and so on. It's difficult to replace this text with English lettering without interfering with the integrity of the original illustrations. Out of respect for Kumeta's unique artwork, many signs have retained their original Japanese lettering.

Page Notes

It's Way Too Gross in This Sad Town, page 4

Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei's chapter titles are usually references to Japanese fiction, generally classics from the prewar period (in keeping with Zetsubou-sensei's old-fashioned clothes). This particular title is a reference to Osamu Dazai's 1935 short story *Doke no Hana* ("Flowers of Buffoonery"), which includes the line "Beyond this place is a sad town."

Gross-out test, page 7

This chapter involves the traditional Japanese game of *kimo-dameshi* ("test of courage"), in which people dare one another to walk through creepy places like graveyards, while other people lurk in the shadows to jump out and scare them. However, Zetsubou-sensei and his sister turn it into a game of *kimoi-dameshi* ("test of grossness"). Summer is the season of ghosts in Japan, so *kimo-dameshi*—either in professional "ghost houses" or just with your friends—is a traditional way to get the chills on hot, spooky summer nights. However, this story was originally printed in Japan in the autumn, not the summer, so the game is a little out of season—hence Chiri's comment.

Kira Yoshikage's collection of nail clippings, page 10

Kira Yoshikage is a character from Hirohiko Araki's long-running manga, *JoJo's Bizarre Adventure*. A serial killer obsessed with the human hand, he kept a collection of his own fingernail clippings, sorted by year.

Nonburnables day, page 11

In Japan, people separate their garbage into different types, such as burnable and nonburnable. Garbage disposal crews collect specific types of garbage on specific days, and may complain to the residents if the garbage is unsorted or left out on the wrong day.

Assorted references, page 13

The long-haired baseball player is a reference to Kei Igawa (1979–), a Japanese pitcher who famously declared that he wouldn't cut his hair as long as his team kept winning. "Gil" and "Rey" are Gilbert Durandal and Rey Za Burrel, characters from the 2004 anime series *Gundam SEED Destiny*. Fujiyoshi is a connoisseur of *yaoi dojinshi*, in which fans draw imaginary relationships between male characters from mainstream manga and anime, but evidently the thought of these two getting together is too much even for her. Otome Road ("Maiden Road") is a nickname for a street in Tokyo's Ikebukuro district famous for its many businesses aimed at nerdy young women, such as the manga and *dojinshi* store K-Books. The Saibamen (known as Cultivars in the VIZ manga translation) are plant-based life forms from Akira Toriyama's *Dragon Ball Z*. "Imprisoned prince" refers to an infamous incident in Japan in which a man imprisoned a woman in his apartment for two weeks in 2001. He received a suspended sentence, then in 2004, he imprisoned another woman for three months until she escaped, keeping her on a dog collar and referring to her by the pet name *ouji* ("prince"). After he was arrested the second time, numerous "human pet"–themed adult video games were confiscated from his apartment. "Fuyuhiko-san" is an adult man with an extremely creepy Oedipus complex from the 1992 TV drama *Zuto Anata ga Suki Datta* ("I've Always Loved You").

Assorted references, page 15

Kimokawa is a Japanese combo word made from *kimoi* (gross, disgusting) and *kawaii* (cute). Yoshiaki Murakami is the founder of the briefly famous investment management company M&A Consulting, aka the "Murakami Fund"; in 2006, after this manga was first published, he was indicted in an insider trading scandal and sentenced to two years in prison. (Koji Kumeta presumably thinks Murakami is *kimokawa* because of his goofy, boyish appearance.) *Kuraki Papa* is a Japanese TV show. "Yamahira's sex book" refers to Japanese politician Taku Yamasaki (1936–), who was publicly shamed when a former bar hostess, Kanako Yamada, wrote a graphic book about their ten-year-long affair during which she had two abortions. 326 is the pen name of Mitsuru Nakamura (1978–), a book illustrator and author (or, as he puts it, an "illust-writer") with a distinctively funky art style.

I've Read Books Full of Shame, page 18

This title is a reference to Osamu Dazai's 1948 novel, *Ningen Shikkaku* ("No Longer Human"), which includes the line "I've lived a life full of shame."

Reading, page 19

This chapter plays with the Japanese verb *yomu* ("read"), which can be used in the sense not just of reading a book, but also "reading" a person's expression and attitude, or predicting the future, the weather, etc. Most of the books and library signs which appear in this chapter are just normal signs and children's book titles.

"You're planning to read what's in my heart, aren't you?" page 20

In the original Japanese, Zetsubou-sensei uses the word *kokoro*, which means "heart," not usually in an anatomical sense but in the sense of one's inner self. An alternate translation in this instance might be "mind" (as in "read my mind"), but other parts of this chapter use *kokoro*, in a sense closer to the English "heart," so there is no one perfect translation.

Shonen Magazine, page 21

Weekly Shonen Magazine is the magazine in which *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei* appears in Japan. As to whether its page count has been decreasing, as Zetsubou-sensei suggests, you'd have to read it to find out.

Aoi Hiiragi and Seiji Amasawa, page 22

Aoi Hiiragi (1962–) is a shojo manga artist best known for *Mimi wo Sumaseba* ("If You Listen Closely"), which was adapted into the Studio Ghibli animated film *Whisper of the Heart*. The book titles, from *Hono no Tatakai* ("Battle of Flames") to *Tokagemori no Ruu* ("Roo of the Lizard Forest"), are made-up children's book titles. However, "Seiji Amasawa" is a character from *Mimi wo Sumaseba*, whose plot hinges on a library checkout card filled out in Amasawa's name.

Assorted references, page 23

Katsuya Nomura (1935–) is a famous Japanese baseball player and manager. The Masters Tournament is an international championship golf tournament. Sakura Yokomine (1985–) is a Japanese golfer. Her father, Yoshihiro Yokomine (1960–), is a Japanese politician and former radio personality who was accused of making large sums of money betting on golf games. Katsuya Okada (1953–) is a member of the House of Representatives of Japan, and former president of the Japanese minority party, the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ). After the unexpected landslide victory of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in the 2005 general elections, which delivered a severe blow to the DPJ, Okada resigned as president.

Yumi Adachi and Arthur Kuroda, page 24

Yumi Adachi (1981–) is a Japanese actress, model and singer. From 2002 to 2005 she dated Arthur Kuroda, an actor more than twenty years her senior. In May 2005 they broke up, and in September 2005 she announced her marriage to comedian Jun Itoda. At the time of her marriage she also announced that she was two months pregnant, causing Zetsubou-sensei to be skeptical about the exact timing of the breakup and pregnancy. (However, after this manga was first printed in Japan, Adachi gave birth on April 2006, more or less on schedule.)

Book in panel 2, page 31

The title of the book in panel 2 is *Fubuki no Anata* ("You are a Snowstorm"), a parody of *Fubuki no Ashita* ("Yesterday's Snowstorm"), one of Yoichi Kimura and Hiroshi Abe's series of children's books. Could it be a reference to Zetsubou-sensei's stormy emotions and frosty demeanor?

A Cultured Man Was Waiting for the Rain to Stop Under the Rashomon Gate, page 34

This title is a reference to Ryunosuke Akutagawa's 1914 short story *Rashomon* (no direct relationship to the Japanese movie of the same name), which includes the line "A lowly man was waiting for the rain to stop under the Rashomon gate."

Cultural festival, page 35

Bunka sai ("Cultural festivals") are annual events held at most schools in Japan. At culture festivals, students set up dances, concerts, plays, food stalls, and so forth, displaying their artistic and academic skills and learning to work as a group. Campus clubs like the manga club often sponsor specific events, and parents and people from other schools are invited to come by and see what kind of work the students have been doing. But how exactly is it "cultural"? Good question. This chapter plays with the idea of "cultural" vs. "noncultural," a distinction sort of like "highbrow" vs. "lowbrow" or "intellectual" vs. "dumbed down."

Blackboard text, page 37

Written on the blackboard are the names of various celebrities, entertainers and artists, including Sofia Coppola, Yuriko Nakamura, Ai Iijima, and Horiemon (Takafumi Horie).

"That's *my* job!" page 39

Usui is chagrined because, although technically he is class chairman, everyone always forgets about his existence and assumes that Chiri is the chairman. (See volume 2, page 58.) In Japanese schools the *iincho*, literally "chairman" or "representative," performs functions similar to an American school's class president. (In fact, the word is often translated as "class president.")

Tatsuya Uesugi and Minami Asakura, page 39

Judging from the names, the class is performing a theatrical version of Mitsuru Adachi's classic 1981 romantic comedy manga *Touch*.

Assorted references, page 40

Takeshi Kaneshiro (1973–) is an actor/singer of mixed Taiwanese and Japanese ancestry. Haruo Mizuno (1931–2008) was a Japanese movie producer, director, and critic, who introduced films for a long-running Japanese TV program.

Assorted references, page 41

Ryo Tamura (1972–), together with Atsushi Tamura, is one of the members of the Japanese comedy duo London Boots ("Lonboo" for short). "Nakai-kun" refers to Masahiro Nakai (1972–), a TV celebrity and the lead member of the Japanese idol group SMAP. The Birdman Rally is a homemade glider and human-powered flight competition. *Manzai* is a type of Japanese stand-up comedy which revolves around puns and gags. Though Chiri performs alone, *manzai* usually involves two performers; London Boots is a *manzai* act.

"This is the part that divides the winners from the losers," pages 42–43

The original Japanese reads *Koko ga shobu no wakarame yon* ("This is the turning point of the battle/match/contest"). *Wakarame*, "turning point," also means "dividing line," and could refer to the part in Chiri's hair. It's an intentionally corny gag.

Mataro, page 44

Mataro is a nickname for Maria, whose full name, after all, is Taro Maria Sekiutsu.

Assorted references, pages 44–45

"Nocchi dessssu!" was the catchphrase of Nozomu Sato (1965–), aka Nocchi, a Japanese comedian. In 2008, Sato changed his image to "Japan's official Obama comedian," focusing on impersonations of Barack Obama and continually using Obama's new catchphrase "Yes, we can!" "Ishii-chan dessssu" was the catchphrase of Kouta Ishii (1975–), a comedian from the Japanese comedy duo Yarusenasu. "Kusanagi-kun" is Tsuyoshi Kusanagi (1974–), an actor and member of the Japanese idol group SMAP, who's also well known for being a lousy visual artist. East End x Yuri was a short-lived band. "Nacchi" is Natsumi Abe (1981–), a J-pop singer and actress, who was accused of plagiarizing poetry she included in some of her photo books. Yassy-kun the mountain goat was the campaign mascot of Yasuo Tanaka (1956–), the governor of Nagano Prefecture from 2000 to 2006. Masayuki Kakefu (1955–) is a baldng baseball commentator and former professional baseball player. Junichi Ishida (1954–) is an actor/director who once scandalously told entertainment reporters that "culture and arts sometimes come from illicit love affairs." This was reported in the media as "immortality (or illicit love affairs) is culture."

Kishidan, page 46

Kishidan ("The Knights") is a comedic Japanese pop group that affects the retro style of 1980s *bosozoku* motorcycle gangs. The joke refers to the auto-correct features on Japanese search engines and cell phones; Zetsubou-sensei's cell phone auto-corrects the neutral *hiragana* characters "ki-shi-dan" to the kanji characters used in the band's name, while Meru's outdated cell phone converts the same *hiragana* characters to a meaningless phrase with the same pronunciation.

Cultural knife, page 46

A *bunkabocho* ("cultural knife") is an old-fashioned advertising term for a stainless steel kitchen knife that could cut through anything, a bit like Ginsu knives in the United States. The word *bunka* ("cultura ") and the phrase *bunka ichi* ("No 1 culture") were common superlatives in Japanese advertising dating back to the 1950s, and were also parodied for humor purposes, as in the title of the 1987 manga/anime *All Purpose Cultural Cat Girl Nuku Nuku*.

The *Namayatsuhashi* Must Be Burned, page 50

Yatsuhashi is a Japanese delicacy made from rice flour, sugar, and cinnamon. It's served either baked and crispy or raw and chewy—the raw form is called *namayatsuhashi* ("raw yatsuhashi.") It's a regional specialty of Kyoto, so it makes sense in the title of a chapter about a trip to Kyoto.

Preview, page 52

The Japanese word for preview used throughout this chapter is *shitami*. It's a word used for preliminary inspections, such as visiting a college before you decide to go there.

Assorted references, page 53

Bubuzuke is a Kyoto specialty food that's served over rice. It seems it is also a polite way to say you've overstayed your welcome. "Letdown Travel Agency" was originally *Gakkari Kanko* ("Disappointing/Discouraging Travel Agency"). The papers in Zetsubou-sensei's hands in panel 7 are a list of suspicious "entertainment expenses" paid to the school principal, the PTA, etc., to the amount of 80,000 yen (about $862) each.

"So Mirai-san wasn't doing a love preview," page 55

Sleggar Law (aka Slegger) and Maria Yashima are characters from the 1979 anime series *Mobile Suit Gundam*.

AB Road, page 56

AB Road (www.ab-road.net) is a Japanese travel and tourism magazine.

Fureizu Mortuary, page 60

The original Japanese reads *Fureizu Kaikan* ("Phrase Assembly Hall"), a pun on the title of Mayu Shinjo's 1997 shojo manga *Kaikan Fureizu* ("Sensual Phrase"). The Japanese words for "assembly hall" and "sensual" sound the same, although they are written with different kanji characters.

Ryuzaki Family Plot, page 61

"Ryuzaki family plot" may be a reference to the character "L" in the manga *Death Note*. (The name Ryuzaki is one of L's aliases.)

I Am *Amakudari*. I Still Don't Have Any Work to Do, page 64

This title is a reference to Natsume Soseki's 1905–1906 novel *I Am a Cat*, which begins with the line "I am a cat. I still don't have a name."

Amakudari, page 66

This Japanese word literally means "descent from heaven." It's a practice in Japan where senior bureaucrats retire to cushy, high-profile positions in the private and public sectors. It often leads to corruption and collusion among colleagues in business, as *amakudari* employees are paid well with taxpayer's money, and there's less oversight by public agencies. Two Japanese prime ministers made policy changes aimed at eliminating *amakudari*, in 2002 and again in 2007, but it's unclear how much effect they had.

Currency conversion, page 67

800,000 yen is approximately $8,620. Thirty million yen is approximately $322,000.

Assorted references, pages 70–71

"Makenaide" ("Don't Lose") is an "inspiring" Japanese pop song. The line about Sakamoto refers to Ryoma Sakamoto (1835–1867), the Meiji Era hero who negotiated a secret alliance between the Choshu and Satsuma clans as part of an attempt to create a modern Japanese government. Hachioji is a suburb of Tokyo, over twenty miles from the city center. Manabu Oshio (1978–) is a Japanese actor/singer who, in 2005, announced that he was giving up acting to focus on his music career with an indie label. "Aoba University Troop 2" is a reference to Akio Chiba's 1972 baseball manga *Captain*. "Musashinomori School" is a reference to Daisuke Higuchi's 1998 soccer manga *Whistle!* "Madame Dewi" refers to Dewi Sukarno (1940–), formerly Naoko Nemoto, a Japanese woman who married Sukarno (1901–1970), the first president of Indonesia. After Sukarno was overthrown in a 1967 coup and died three years later, Dewi became a wealthy international socialite. Kaoklai Kaennorsing (1983–) is a K-1 champion Muay Thai kickboxer.

Kyabetsu Taro, page 72

Kyabetsu Taro ("cabbage taro") is a Japanese snack. Ironically, it contains no cabbage.

Itoshiki-kun, page 73

When Zetsubou-sensei starts acting like a high school student, Chiri starts calling him "Itoshiki-kun." She can add the "kun" because her teacher is now acting as if he's her age. Chiri couldn't call him that if he were still her superior.

Sportop, page 73

Sportop is a Japanese energy drink.

As Gregor Samsa Awoke One Morning He Found Himself Carrying a *Mikoshi*, page 78

This title is a reference to Franz Kafka's 1915 short story *The Metamorphosis*, which opens with the line "As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect."

Omikoshi or *mikoshi*, page 79

A *mikoshi* (or, in more respectful language, *omikoshi*) is a portable Shinto shrine that serves as a vehicle of a divine spirit. It is beautifully ornate with carvings and gilding, and borne on the shoulders by *mikoshi* carriers by means of two poles. During festivals, a *mikoshi* is carried around the neighborhood and down the main streets and the excitement can get intense.

Assorted references, page 81

"Kaoru-hime" refers to volleyball player Kaoru Sugayama (1978–), often called Kaoru-hime ("Princess Kaoru") or *shiroi yosei* ("white fairy") because of her good looks. "Toda's Seiko-chan" refers to politician Satsuki Katayama (1959–), a graduate of prestigious Todai University. Due to her looks, she has been compared to singer/songwriter Seiko Matsuda (1962–). "Sakurai Mushuchu" is short for Kazutoshi Sakurai (1970–), a Japanese musician most famous for his band Mr. Children. Mirai Moriyama (1984–) is a Japanese actor and model. Yawara is the title character of Naoki Urasawa's 1986 sports manga *Yawara! A Fashionable Judo Girl*. When real-life Japanese teenager Ryoko Tamura won a silver medal for judo at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, she was nicknamed "Yawara-chan" after the character.

Assorted references, page 82

"Tama-chan," aka "Tamao Nishi," was the name given to an Arctic bearded seal who took up residence in various Japanese rivers in 2002. When he moved to a river in Yokohama, the amused locals of Yokohama's Nishi ward registered him as a citizen. Later, a small pup seal appeared in Japan's Isatomae River, where it was nicknamed "Uta-chan" by the residents of nearby Utatsu-cho. "It stands!" refers to Futa-kun, a red panda at the Chiba Zoo who became a big attraction due to his ability to stand on his hind legs.

"If a person just dies in a novel..." page 83

This is a reference to a tear-jerking Japanese romance, Kyoichi Katayama's *Socrates in Love*, published in 2001. A massive bestseller, it was adapted into manga, a TV drama, and a live-act on film.

Assorted references, page 85

Junichiro Koizumi (1942–) was the prime minister of Japan from 2001 to 2006, during which time he became known as an economic reformer. "The piano man" refers to Andreas Grassl (1984–), a German man found wandering the streets in England in April 2005, who remained unidentified for more than four months due to his refusal to communicate apart from drawing and playing the piano. Actor Yuya Yagira (1990–) became the youngest person ever to receive the Best Actor Award at the Cannes Film Festival for his role in the 2004 film *Nobody Knows*. The Seakagoke Spider (*seakagoke gumo*) was a poisonous spider that became the focus of a public health scare when it was discovered to have extended its habitat around Osaka Bay. "Minus Ion" devices, also known as "negative ion" devices, are a type of air purifiers that are supposed to cause health benefits by ionizing air molecules. Naniwa Ward is a neighborhood in Osaka, Japan. Japanese department stores are famous for selling food in their basements, often in high-class restaurants with famous chefs, and the competition among stores is intense. "Ramen Wars" refers to a 2005 incident in Japan when a jealous ramen shop owner kidnapped and beat a former business partner who had founded a more successful ramen shop by himself. The "Korean Wave" refers to a huge surge in the popularity of South Korean pop culture throughout Japan and the rest of Asia in the 1990s; some Japanese people reacted against this with expressions of anti-Korean sentiment. The Roppongi Hills Zoku, or "Hills Tribe," is a nickname for the flashy, new-money tenants of Tokyo's Roppongi Hills business megacomplex, opened in 2003. Agaricus is a mushroom known for its purported medical properties. "Suicup" is a nickname for Eri Furuse, a former NHK newscaster known for her large breasts (*suika* means "watermelon"). Odaiba and Shiodome are trendy neighborhoods built on reclaimed land in Tokyo Bay.

Assorted references, page 86

The Avex Group is a music label and entertainment company in Japan, known for repackaging fading stars' music, such as with the 2005 group Cutie Mommy, made up of three idol singers from the eighties. *Corocoro Comic* is a manga magazine aimed at elementary school kids, featuring many toy and video game manga. *Hakkutsu! Aruaru Daijiten* ("Excavate! An Encyclopedia of Facts") was a 1996–2007 TV infotainment program. In 2007 it was canceled when it was discovered that they had fabricated data about the health benefits of *natto* (fermented soybeans).

Moe boom, page 86

Moe (literally meaning "budding" or "sprouting") is Japanese slang for a fetish or a great love for characters in manga, anime, and video games. In a broad sense, it can mean any beloved hobby, but the original context is of male *otaku* who obsess over cute big-eyed anime girls. On page 87, the *otaku* vainly attempts to popularize *hore* ("fascinating") as a replacement for *moe*, a term which has been overused by the mainstream media.

Evening Primroses on Mt. Fuji Are a Mistake, page 92

This title is a reference to Osamu Dazai's 1939 short story collection *Fugaku Hyakkei* ("One Hundred Views of Mt. Fuji"), which includes the line "Evening primroses are suited to Mt. Fuji."

Assorted references, page 96

Zetsubou-sensei's quote ("There are no right answers in life") is a combination of quotes from the French aviator/author Antoine de Saint Exupéry ("There are no solutions in life. There is only the energy to advance forward") and Japanese anatomist/philosopher Takeshi Yoro ("For the problems we face in our lives, there are no right answers. But in the meantime, there are answers"). Abiru's quote ("There are no mistakes") is possibly a reference to a book of the same name by Japanese entertainer Hidekazu Nagai (1970–), who has been embroiled in various scandals involving women.

Assorted references, page 97

July 1999 was the month in which, according to the prophecies of Nostradamus, the "King of Terror" was supposed to appear, ushering in the end of the world. "Paying for NHK" refers to the Japanese law that each household with a working television must pay monthly fees to NHK, Japan's national public broadcasting system. However, there is no penalty for not paying, so many (possibly most) people don't pay anything, and the system is sort of a national joke. VHD ("Video High Density") was a failed Japanese videodisc format launched in 1978.

Heisei, page 99

When Nozomu declares, "It's the He sei war of mistakes!" it's a play on words. The Heisei Era is the name of the current Japanese era, which began in 1989, but the name He sei also means "peace everywhere," so it's an ironic name for a war.

Assorted references, page 99

Hidetoshi Nakata (1977–) is a former Japanese professional soccer player. His soccer playing started to go downhill when he joined Fiorentina, an Italian soccer club, in 2004, and he retired in 2006. J-pop star Sayaka Kanda (1986–), also known as simply Sayake, is the daughter of Japanese singer-songwriter Seiko Matsuda (1962–). In 2005, the mother and daughter had a much-publicized falling-out, and Seiko's management agency "retired" Sayaka from show business, reportedly due to Seiko's disapproval of Sayaka's boyfriends. In Japanese, "nucleic acid and your wife" is a pun (*kakusan* and *okusan*). Kaoru Sugita (1964–) is a Japanese actress who was supposed to appear in an NHK TV drama, but they couldn't agree to her scheduling and pay demands so she was bumped off the series. Makiko Tanaka (1944–) is a Japanese politician who was kicked out of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party after she made remarks critical of then-prime minister Junichiro Koizumi. She later successfully ran as an independent. MF (midfielder) and FW (winger) are soccer terms. Akechi Mitsuhide (1528–1582) was a samurai and general under the great daimyo Oda Nobunaga (1534–1582), who later betrayed Nobunaga and forced him to commit *seppuku*. Fuji TV and Livedoor are Japanese media corporations that fought a highly publicized battle for control of the radio station NBS (Nippon Broadcasting System) in 2005. Reinhard von Lohengramm and Oskar von Reuenthal are characters in the classic science fiction manga/anime/novel series *Legend of the Galactic Heroes*.

Assorted references, pages 100–101

All the people depicted are Japanese (or global) celebrities. The guy with the video camera is Masashi Tashiro (1956–), a former Japanese TV performer and musician who was arrested in 2000 for filming up women's skirts. The guy with the hand mirror is Kazuhide Uekusa, a former professor at Waseda University who was arrested in 2004 for using a mirror to peep under girls' skirts at a train station. The guy on the TV is Katsuji Ebisawa, president of NHK TV, who stepped down from his post and publicly apologized following a series of embezzlement scandals in 2005. The "flat three" refers to the three-man backline defensive strategy used by French soccer coach Philip Troussier when he was coaching the Japanese national team from 1998 to 2002. (It wasn't successful.) The guy with the mushroom is Hideaki Ito (1975–), a Japanese actor who was hospitalized in 2001 after eating a magic mushroom. (His T-shirt advertises his 2006 film *Limit of Love: Umizaru*.) The man in the corner reading a book is Taku Yamasaki (1936–), a Japanese politician who was publicly humiliated in 2003 when his ex-mistress wrote a sexually explicit book about their ten-year-long affair. The text on the poster of Michael Jackson reads "Lawsuit won!"

Assorted references, page 102

Yutori Kyoiku ("relaxed education") is a 2002 education initiative aimed at reducing stress in students and giving them more outlets for self-expression by reducing the Japanese school week from six days to five days (see page 113), reducing workload, and offering more electives. Some people blame it for a decline in Japanese academic abilities. The Chubu Centrair International Airport was opened in Japan in 2005. Fifty-six-year-old Masaaki Matsubayashi became infamous for embezzling more than 1.9 billion yen to pay for his extravagant lifestyle which included seventeen mistresses. The "lottery ticket" line refers to the lottery that, except for a brief period from 2002 to 2005, was used to determine the draft of Japanese high school students into professional baseball. Koji Nakata (1979–) is a Japanese soccer player who accidentally passed to the opposing team in a 2005 match against Latvia. Kei Igawa (see page 12) is a Japanese baseball player whose performance declined in 2004–2005. Noma Neko is a cat mascot character created in 2005 by Avex for a music video. When Noma Neko first appeared, users of the Japanese community site 2channel noticed a strong similarity to the fan-created 2channel cat mascot, Mona, and cried foul, prompting massive criticism of Avex. Avex eventually released an apology on the networking site Mixi, and canceled plans to obtain a trademark on the character. Ken Hirai (1972–) is a singer who releases work fairly infrequently. Uniqlo is Japan's leading clothing retail chain, who at one point attempted selling groceries (vegetables, etc.) through a subsidiary. The attempt was a failure and the subsidiary was dissolved in 2004. Chogin Bank, aka LTCB, was one of Japan's top-ranked long-term credit banks, until it collapsed under bad-loan losses in 2000. The Isahaya Bay land reclamation project, which began in 1997 in an attempt to drain wetlands and convert them into agricultural land, was an environmental fiasco which devastated the local fishing industry. DigiCube was a subsidiary of Square founded in 1996 for the purpose of selling entertainment software in convenient stores. It filed for bankruptcy in 2003.

I Was Thinking of Proving It This New Year, page 106

This title is a reference to Osamu Dazai's short story *Ha* ("Leaf"), which includes the line "I was thinking of dying this New Year."

Rainbow Drop, page 110

The Rainbow Drop is an item in the very first Dragon Quest (aka Dragon Warrior) video game.

Kofuku, page 110

Kofuku Eki ("Happiness Station") is an unusually-named train station in Hokkaido. When it appeared in a 1973 TV documentary, "happy tickets" from the station became popular souvenirs. The station closed in 1987.

Washington Naval Treaty, page 112

The Washington Naval Treaty, an attempt to limit place limits on battleships and other naval power, was signed between Japan, Britain, the United States, France, and Italy in 1922.

Impostors, page 114

Calling someone over the phone and pretending to be their son, in order to get them to wire you money, is an old scam in Japan. The second example refers to a man who moved to the Japanese village of Miyota-machi and briefly passed himself off as 1960s pop singer Michio Shimizu, judging a karaoke competition and singing the song *"Amairo No Kami No Otome"* ("The Maiden with the Flaxen Hair"). "Pretending to be a pilot" refers to the movie *Catch Me If You Can*, in which Leonardo DiCaprio plays a talented impostor. "Pretending to be the Emperor" refers to a 2003 scam in which a man pretended to be Prince Arisugawa, a relative of the Japanese royal line, and invited guests to his "wedding" with a female conspirator. About 360 wedding guests were bilked out of a total of 13 million yen in cash gifts.

Assorted references, page 115

Adrián Annus (1973–) is a Hungarian hammer thrower who was stripped of his gold medal at the 2004 Summer Olympic Games for a doping violation. Aya Matsuura (1986–) is a Japanese idol singer accused in the past of lying about her age. In 2005, Yoshiaki Murakami's "Murakami Fund" bought a 38 percent stake in Hanshin Electric Railway (the owner of the Hanshin Tigers baseball team), sparking many buyout rumors, although the fund said at the time it had no intention of controlling the company. "Photosynthetic canal bacteria" was a junk-science cure-all term associated with a fake health supplement, Shinkogen, sold by Next Century Farm Research Institute, a natural foods lab in Japan's Gifu prefecture. In 2005, a junior high girl died at the lab, prompting a government investigation of their foods and a huge scandal.

Hakama, page 116

The *hakama* is part of the traditional Japanese clothing worn by Zetsubou-sensei.

Top four panels, page 117

This scene is a reference to the case of Andreas Grassl (see notes for page 85).

Hitomi Shimatani, page 118

Hitomi Shimatani (1980–) is a Japanese J-pop singer who (sometimes) wears her hair parted in the middle.

Children's beer, page 119

Kodomo beer ("children's beer") is a type of nonalcoholic beer marketed toward children in Japan.

Because of My Hereditary Lack of Energy, I Have Been Hibernating Since Childhood, page 120

This title is a reference to Natsume Soseki's 1906 novel *Botchan*, which begins with the line "Because of a hereditary recklessness, I have been playing always a losing game since my childhood."

Assorted references, page 123

Every Christmas Eve, Fuji TV puts on a live TV show called *Akashiya Santa's Greatest Christmas Present Show in History*. The hosts call viewers who submitted postcards in advance, and the viewers tell their sob stories on the air; the people with the most interesting stories win prizes. Soba (buckwheat noodles) are a traditional good-luck food eaten on the New Year, and Donbee is a brand of instant noodles. Tube was a Japanese rock band who generally only released CDs during the summer.

Assorted references, page 124

NEET stands for "Not currently engaged in Employment, Education, or Training," a term often applied to unemployed adults still living with their parents. Akiko Yada (1978–) is an actress and the wife of actor/musician Manabu Oshio (see the notes for page 70–71). For Sayaka, see the notes for page 99. Psycho le Cému was an all-male Japanese "visual rock" band active from 1999 to 2005, when their lead singer, Daishi, was arrested for failing a drug test. The band went "on hiatus," their tour was canceled, and their merchandise was removed from store shelves.

Fuyukomori, page 125

This is a pun using the verb *komori* ("to confine"). Kiri Komori is a *hikikomori* (a shut-in, someone who "confines" themselves indoors) and something that hibernates is a *fuyukomori* (literally, something that is "confined" during the winter).

Assorted references, page 127

Comiket, short for Comic Market, is Japan's biggest *dojinshi* (self-publishing/fanzine) convention, which takes place twice a year in Tokyo. In Japan, Christmas is considered a "romantic holiday for couples," so like Valentine's Day, it's a depressing day to be single.

Orgy of the Dead, page 129

Orgy of the Dead (in Japanese *Shiryo no Bon Odori*, "Bon Festival of the Dead") is an infamously horrible 1965 movie directed by Ed Wood.

De Riel, page 129

De Riel, from SSP Co., Ltd., is a relatively mild brand of Japanese sleeping pills.

Assorted references, pages 130-131

Fatal Frame is a survival-horror video game series. "Gundam Mark III" refers to any one of several obscure *mecha* from the Mobile Suit Gundam franchise, generally a variant design that appeared in toys or model magazines but never in the anime. Shingo Katori (1977–) is a member of the J-pop group SMAP who underwent a crash diet and wrote a book based on his experiences. Kaori Manabe (1981–) is a TV personality and swimsuit model. "HDP" refers to the magazine *Hot-Dog Press*, a young men's magazine published by Kodansha from 1979 to 2004. The "Super Liner Ogasawara" was a giant cruise liner, planned but never built, which was intended to ferry passengers to and from Japan's remote Ogasawara islands. HOPE-X was an experimental Japanese space plane, first proposed in the 1980s and finally canceled in 2003. For the "King of Terror" and "Noma Neko," see the notes for page 97 and 102. Haruka Igawa (1976–) is a Japanese "talent" and swimsuit model. Japan has two major professional leagues, the Pacific League and the Central League; with pro baseball's popularity floundering in Japan, there have been plans to switch to a one-league system. Smart, formerly Smart GmbH, is a canceled microcar brand of the automobile manufacturer Daimler AG. The ultra-maneuverable, 4WD Nissan MID4 was shown in prototype at the Frankfurt auto show in 1985, but never went into production. In September 2005, the communications company JM Net announced an "all you can talk" cell phone plan for 4500 yen a month (about $49). The plan was impossible, but the announcement temporarily drove up stock prices, allowing the company executive to sell at a massive profit before he was arrested for violating the Securities and Exchange Law. JM Net then went bankrupt. *Ninku* is a manga by Koji Kiriyama and *Mother* is a Japanese RPG series (known as *Earthbound* in the United States); both went on extremely long hiatuses between installments. Yukino Kikuma (1972–) is a Fuji TV announcer who wrote a formal apology for drinking alcohol when she was a minor.

The Musashino of Today Is Shrouded in Darkness, page 134

This title is a reference to Doppo Kunikida's 1901 short story collection *Musashino*, which includes the phrase "Musashino of long ago..." Musashino, a rural farming village during the time of Kunikida's life (1871–1908), eventually became urbanized and is now a suburb of Tokyo.

Yaminabe, page 135

Yaminabe literally means "dark hot pot." It's something of a potluck stew; friends come together and put mysterious ingredients in a big pot and cook the stew in the dark. Then each participant takes something from the pot with chopsticks, and once everyone has something, the light is turned (or kept) off and they eat what they took. Rules vary from place to place, but it's all done for laughs and thrills.

Assorted References, page 136

Yuri Mitsui (1968–) is an actress, model, and race car driver. Miki Dozan (1970–) is a musician and reggae DJ.

Champ magazine, page 139

The hand-drawn manga magazine is a parody of the Japanese magazines *Shonen Champion* and *Shonen Jump*. With the dedication of a true fangirl, the young Fujiyoshi has painstakingly recreated the contents page, enthusiastic title pages, and cliff-hanger endings of an actual manga magazine.

Assorted references, page 144

Megumi Hayashibara (1967–) is a popular Japanese voice actress and singer. Shoowatch, short for "Shooting Watch," is a handheld game by Hudson where you try to push the button as many times as possible in ten seconds.

Shimoyama Incident, page 145

On July 5, 1949, the dismembered body of Japan National Railways president Sadanori Shimoyama was found on a railway track. The case was never solved.

Black market, page 147

The names on the left are parodies of actual Japanese companies, such as LiveDoor, Avex, and CyberAgent.

Assorted references, page 149

Takako Matsu (1977–) is an actress/singer/songwriter. Hiromix (1976–) is a Japanese photographer. Hidetsugu Aneha (1957–) is a former Japanese architect sentenced to five years in prison for falsifying data on earthquake safety. He wore quirky glasses.

Mongolian blue spot, page 150

The "Mongolian blue spot" is a benign birthmark above the buttocks, most common among East Asians and Turks.

Koji Kumeta, page 150

The ingredient names for the seasoning mirin are made with glutinous rice, rice, and malted rice. The manga artist's first name, Koji, is a synonym for "malted rice" (although the characters are different) and his last name, Kumeta, has the character "rice" in it. So, he's sort of eating a *yaminabe* with a lot of himself in it.

Pile of mail, page 154

The letters are all hate mail with text like "It's the No. 1 Most Boring!," "I don't understand the stories," and "I just happened to read it but I can't forget how sick it made me."

Manga cover, page 156

The manga cover is a parody of *Strawberry 100%*.

Botchan, page 157

Botchan is a famous novel written by Natsume Soseki (see notes for page 120). Botchan is a nickname given to privileged or wealthy young boys. However, Koji Kumeta writes the word "Botchan" with words that sound the same, but it has a totally different meaning—"dead little one."